20 YEARS OF IDW

ISSUE 19

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

CRISIS CITY, PART ONE!

FLYNN • LAWRENCE • CURRY

SEGA®

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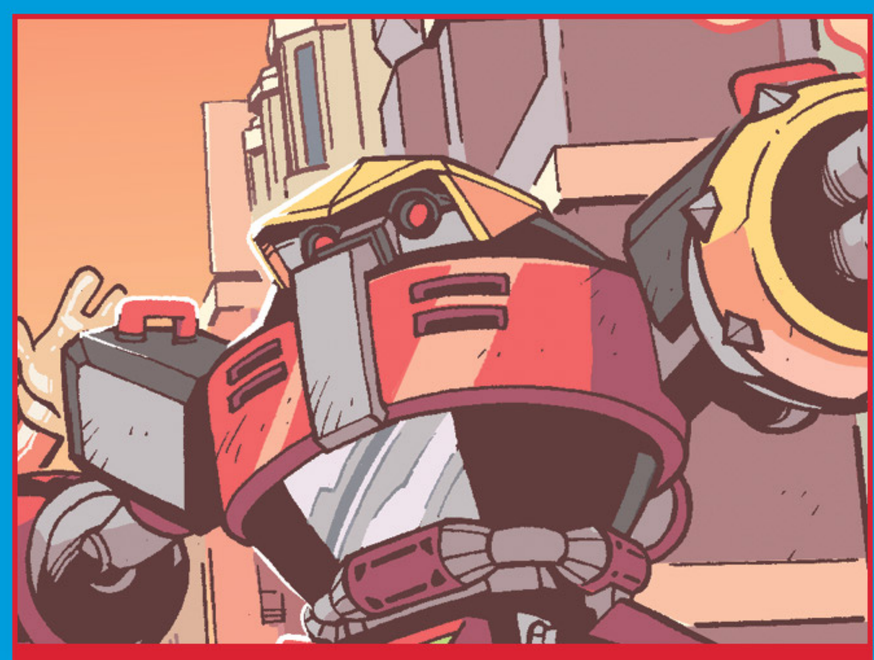
STORY SO FAR...

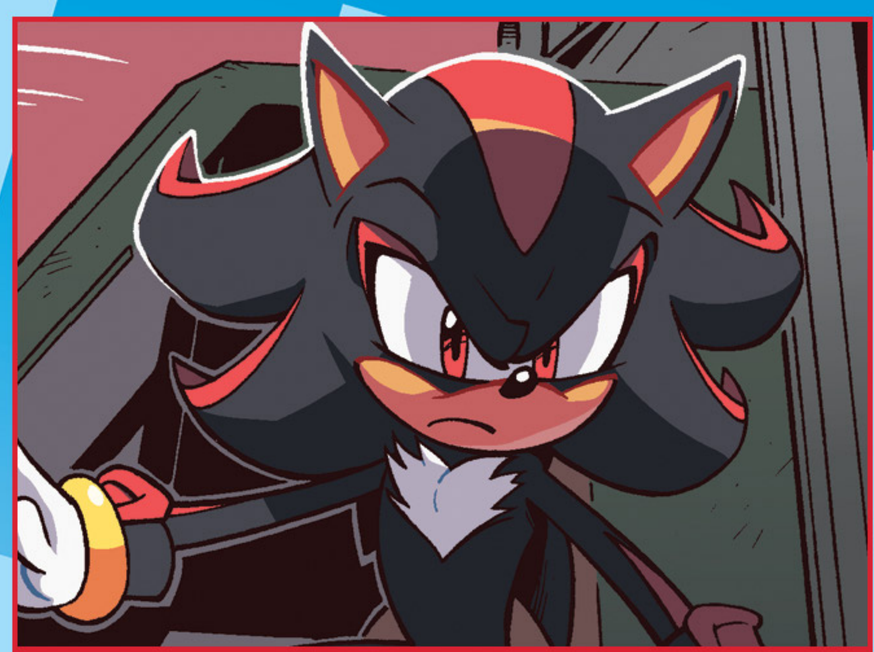
Dr. Eggman has returned with one of his most sinister plots yet: the Metal Virus! The Metal Virus infects living organic matter and turns it into zombie-like robots (Zombots) that can infect others and that respond only to Eggman's command. As the Metal Virus spreads, cities and heroes—including Sonic himself—are infected. With Sonic's allies falling victim to the virus and Sonic's need to always be on the move to stave off the infection, the Restoration turns to their allies Rouge, Shadow, and Omega to save Sunset City...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.



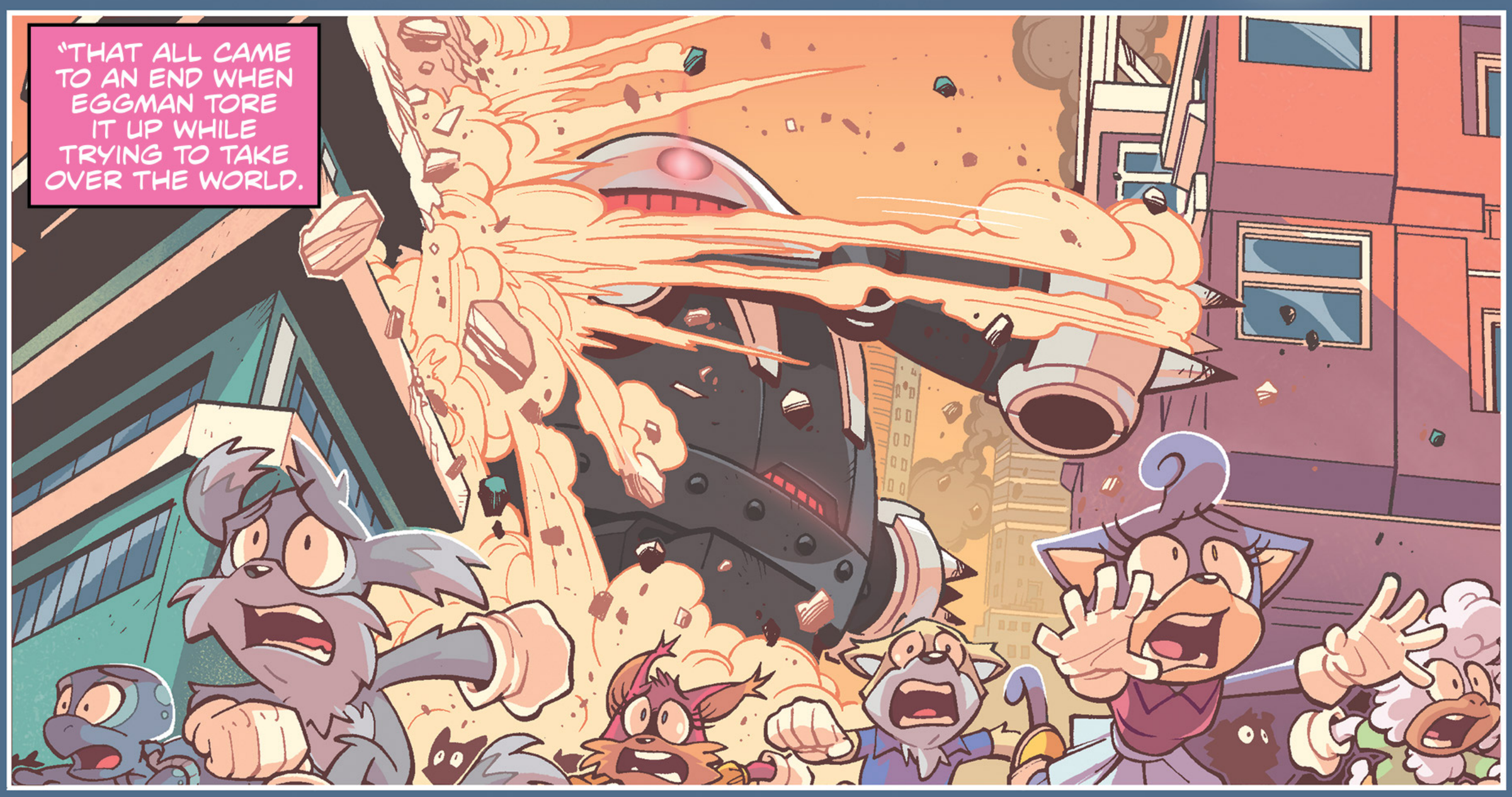
E-123 OMEGA
Rogue Super Badnik.
Robot hunter.

ROUGE THE BAT
Treasure-hunting Spy.
Restoration ally.

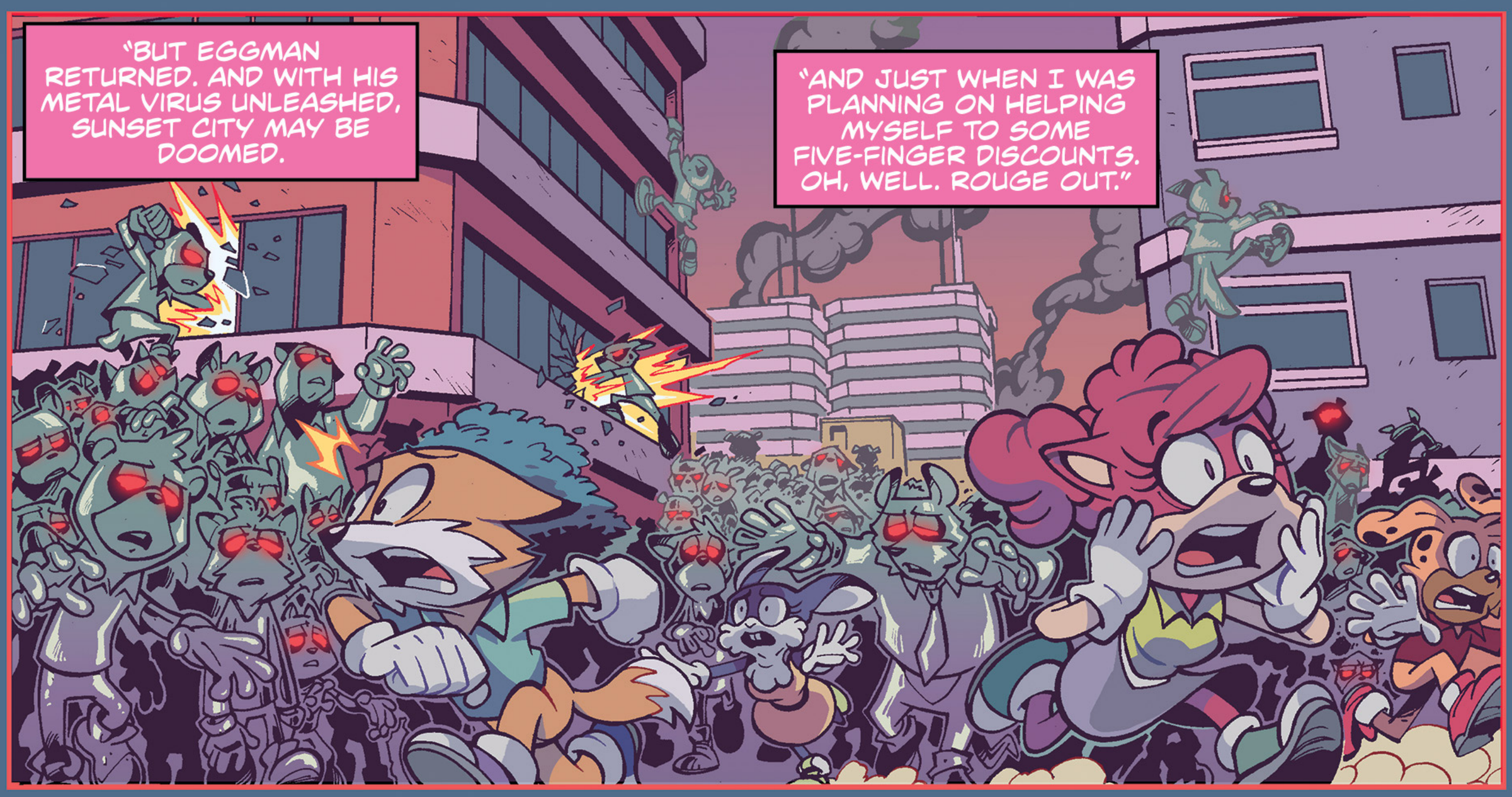


SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG
The Ultimate Lifeform.
Sonic's grim rival.

"SONIC! WE NEED YOU IN SUNSET CITY.
"IT USED TO BE A MAJOR MERCHANT HUB. DAZZLING JEWEL MARKETS.

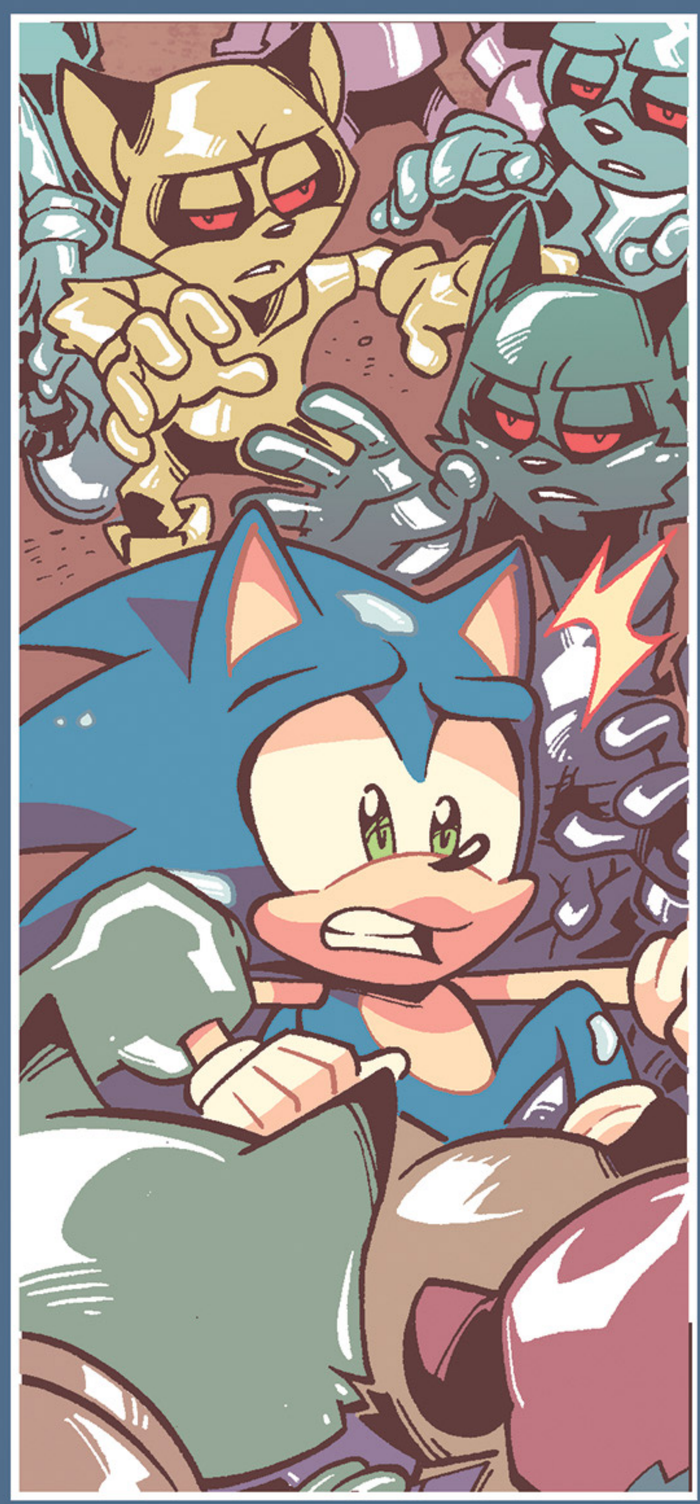

"THAT ALL CAME TO AN END WHEN EGGMAN TORE IT UP WHILE TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.

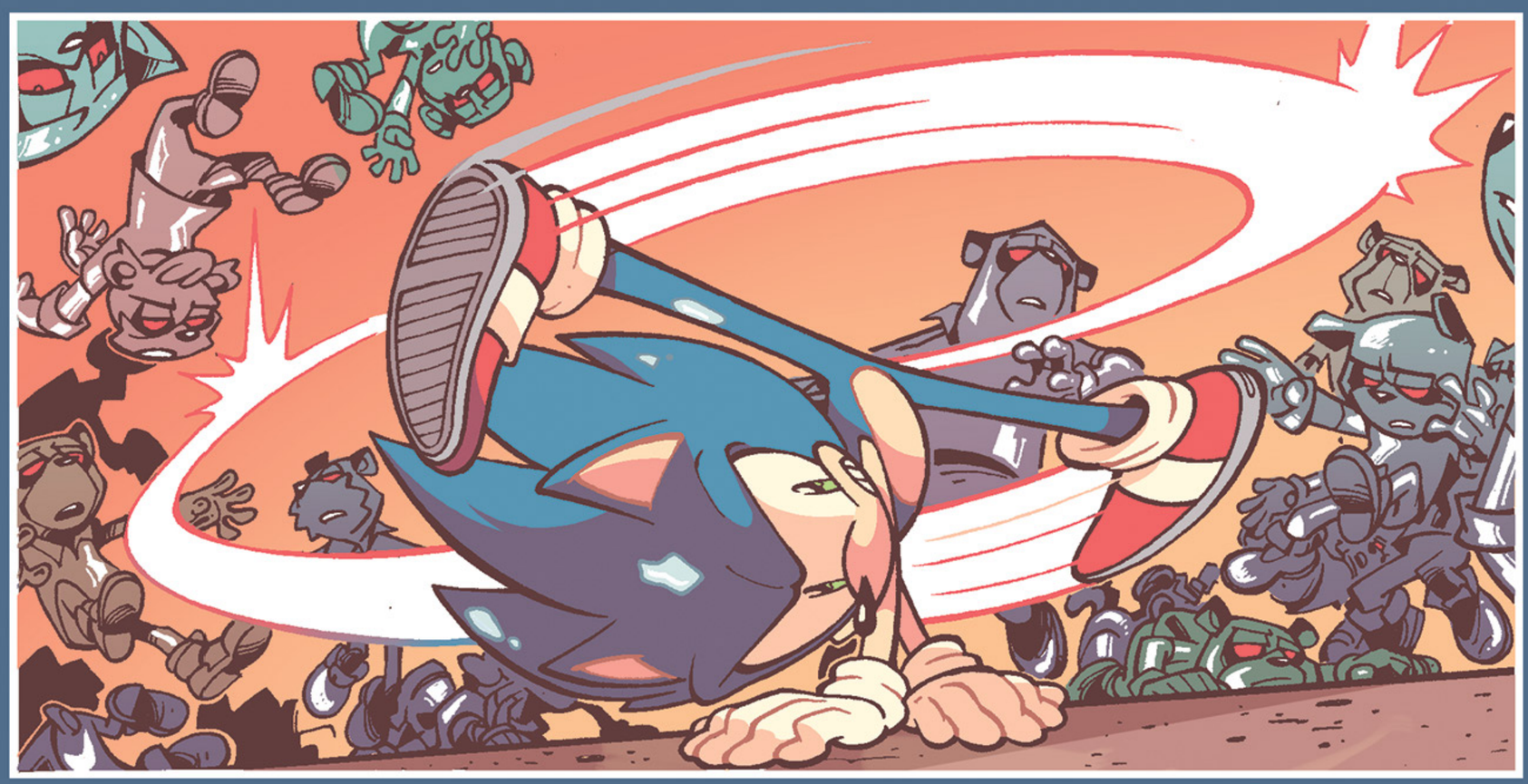
"BUT ITS CITIZENS STAYED STRONG.
"AFTER EGGMAN'S DEFEAT, AND WITH THE HELP OF THE RESTORATION, THEY BEGAN TO REBUILD.

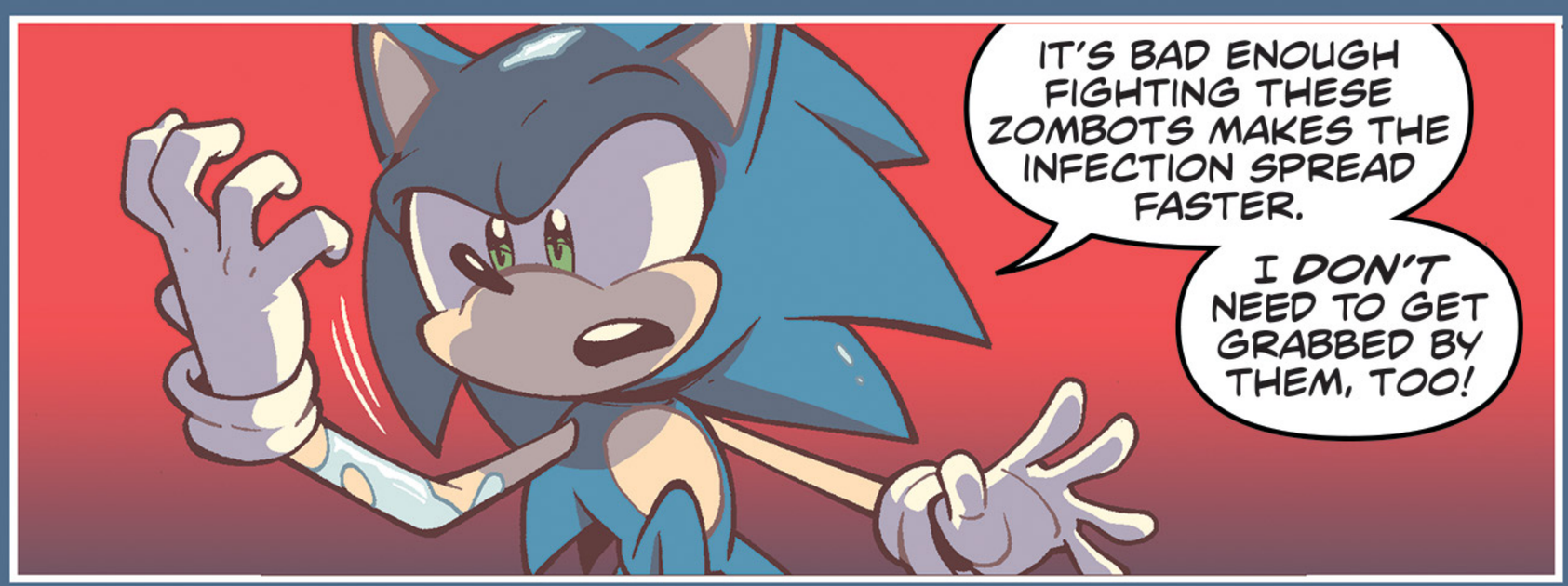

"BUT EGGMAN RETURNED. AND WITH HIS METAL VIRUS UNLEASHED, SUNSET CITY MAY BE DOOMED.
"AND JUST WHEN I WAS PLANNING ON HELPING MYSELF TO SOME FIVE-FINGER DISCOUNTS. OH, WELL. ROUGE OUT."

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

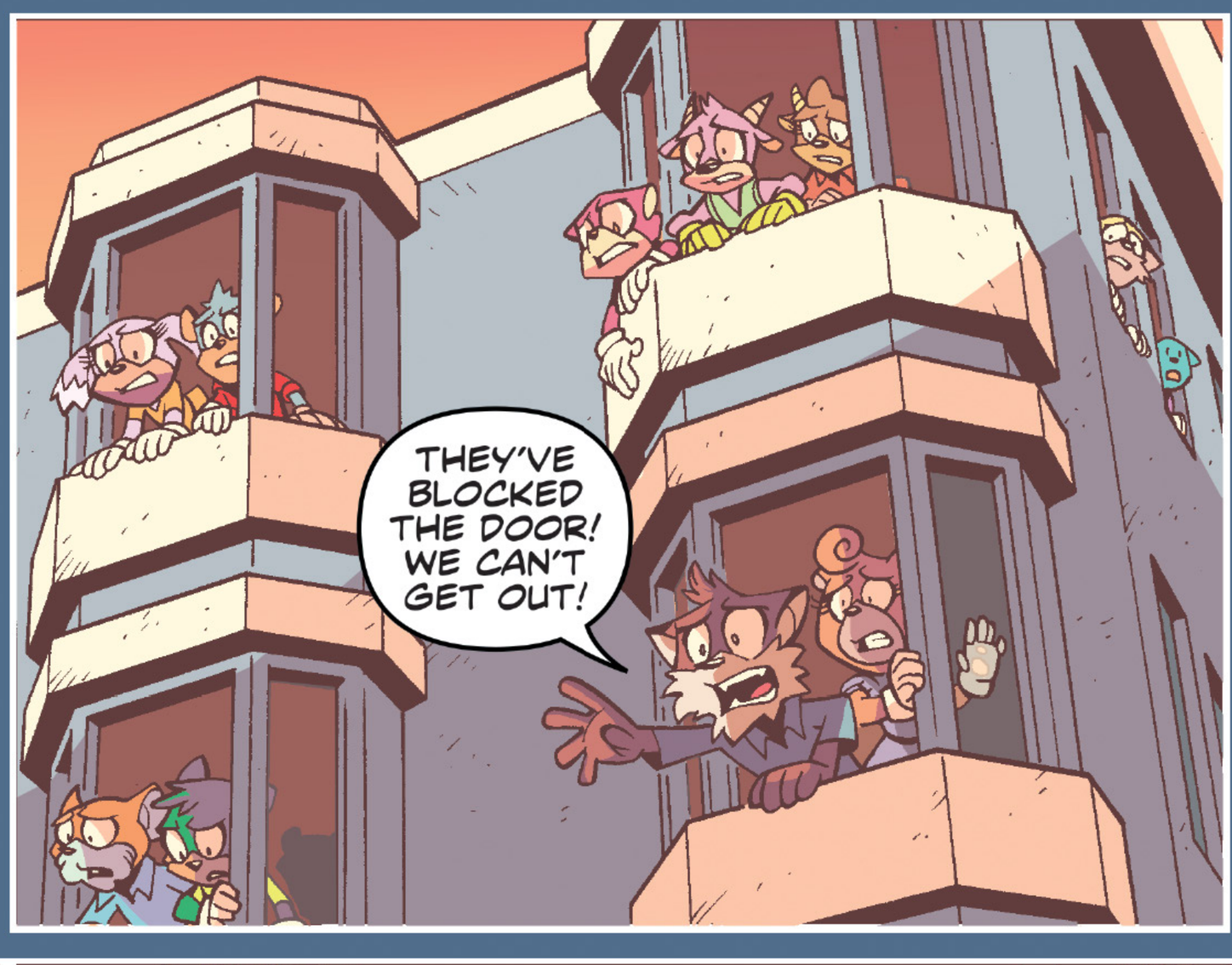
ANYBODY OUT THERE?! I CAN'T HELP IF I DON'T KNOW YOU'RE THERE!



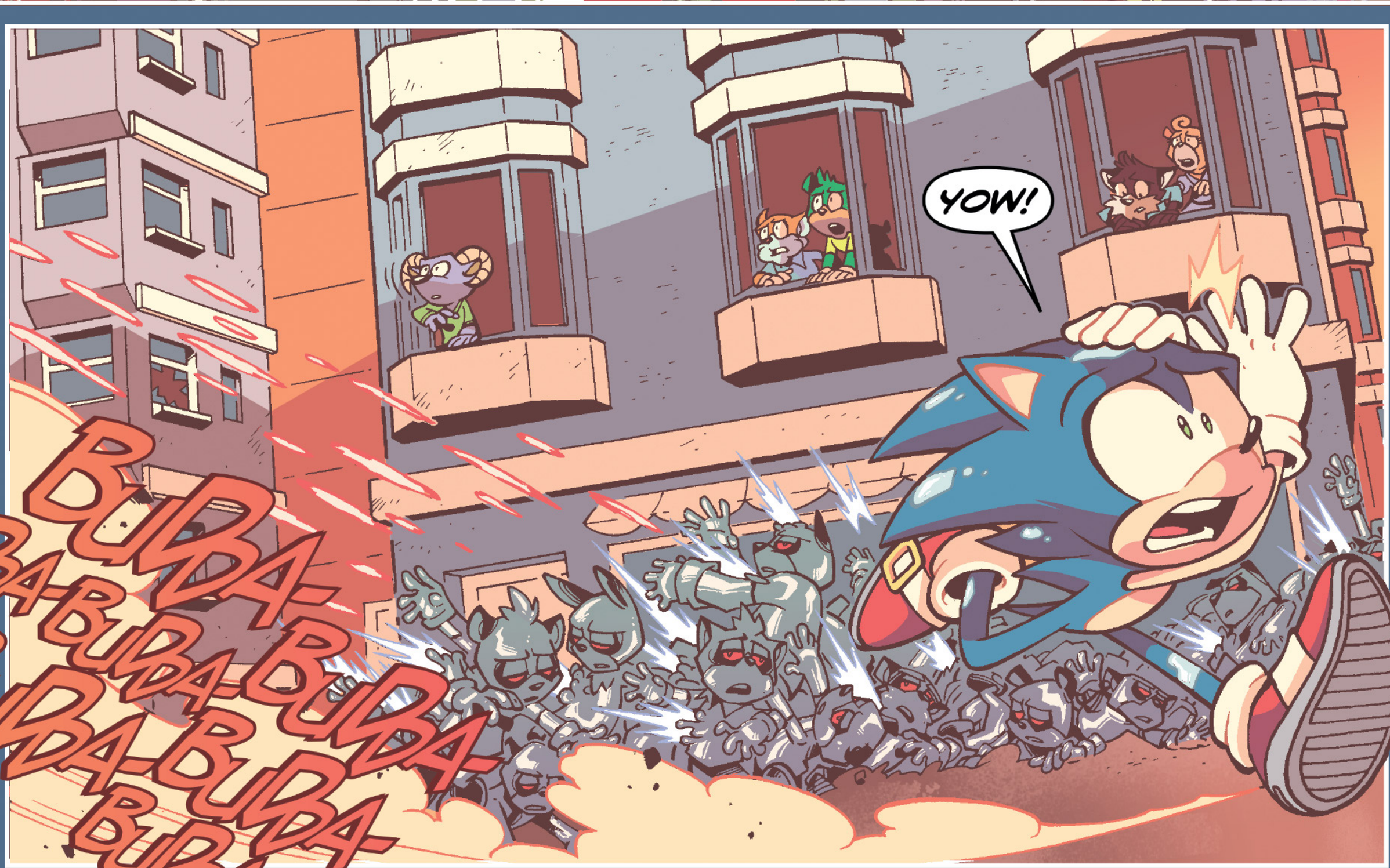


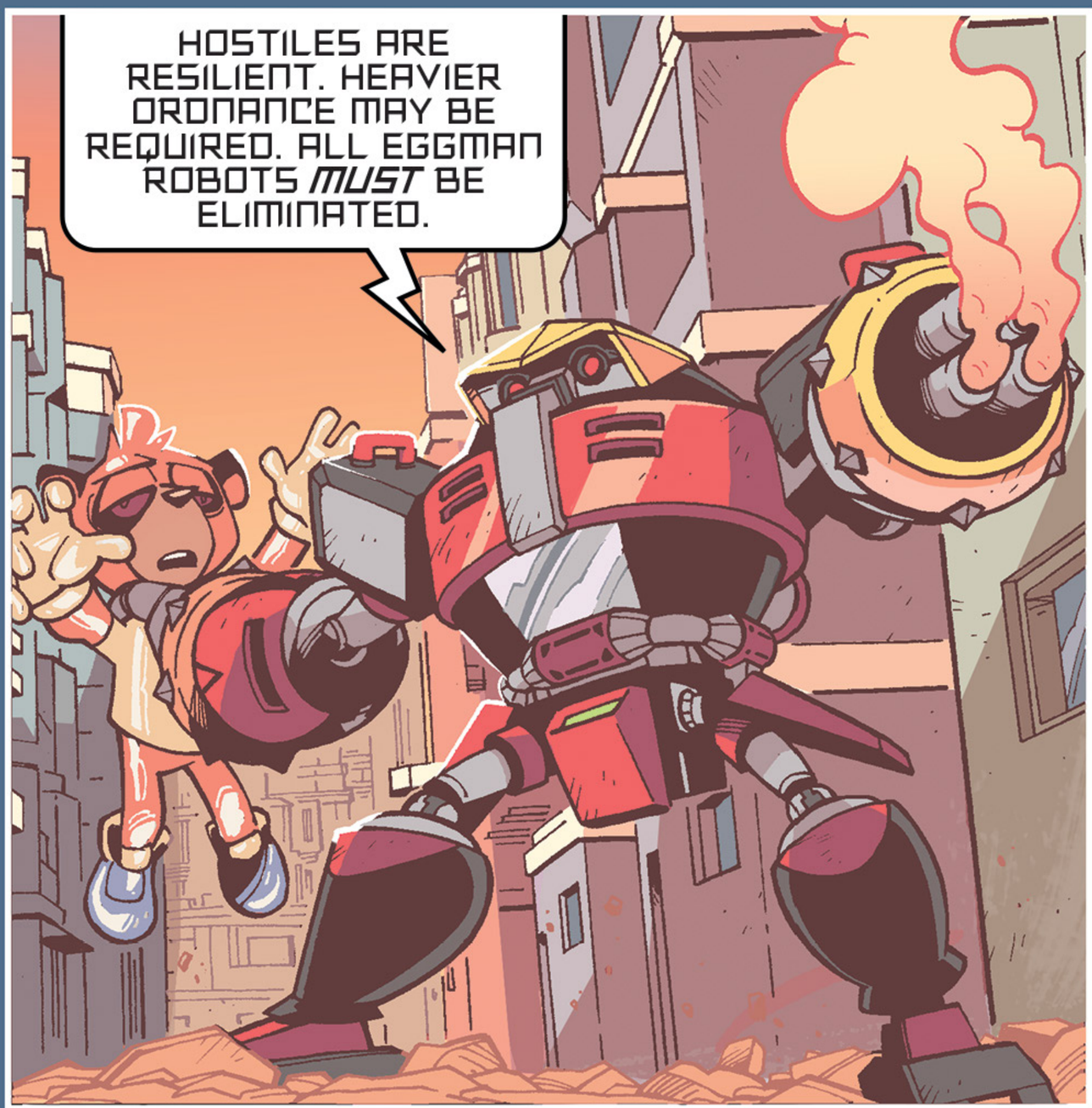

IT'S BAD ENOUGH FIGHTING THESE ZOMBOTS MAKES THE INFECTION SPREAD FASTER.
I DON'T NEED TO GET GRABBED BY THEM, TOO!

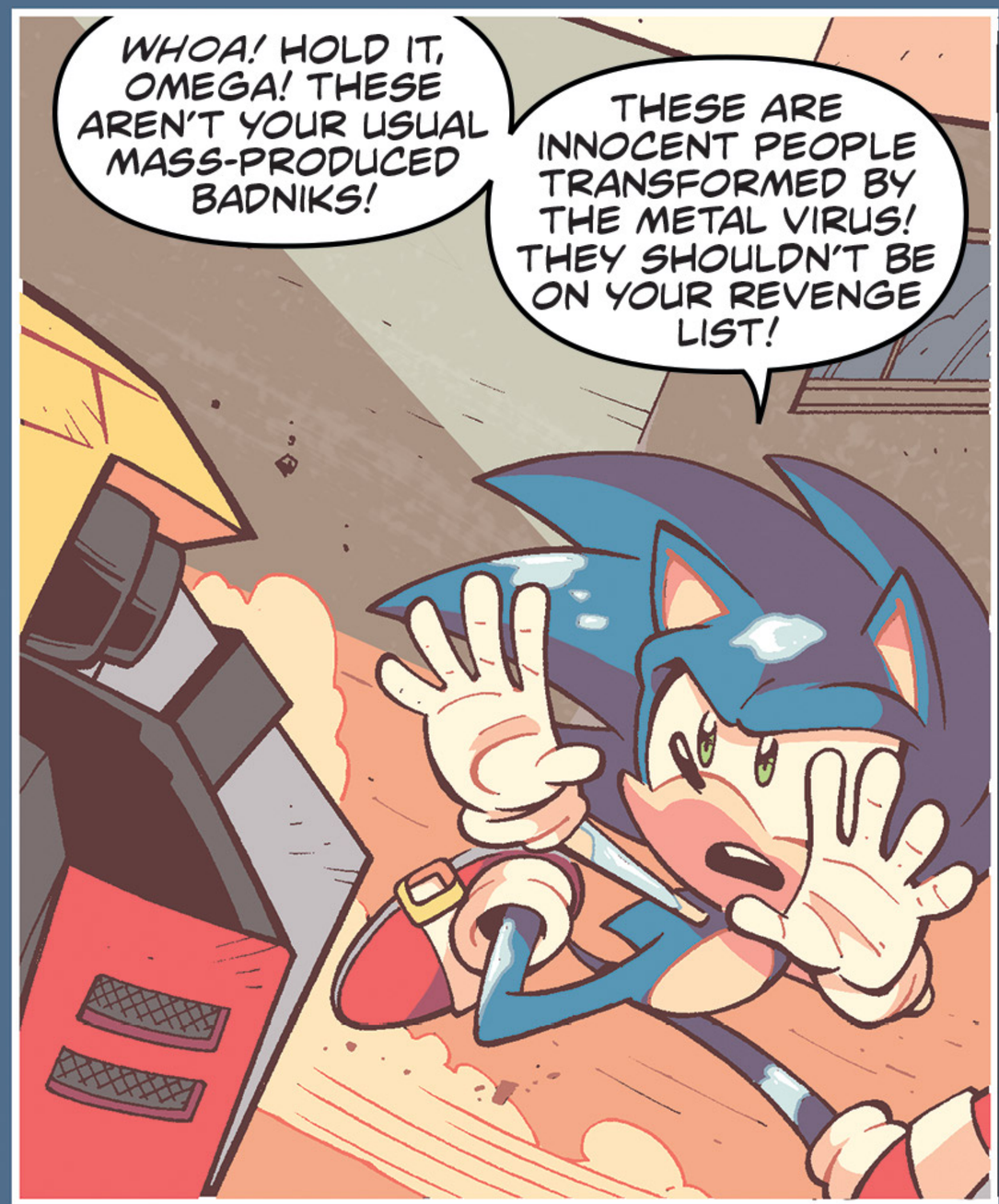
SONIC! UP HERE!

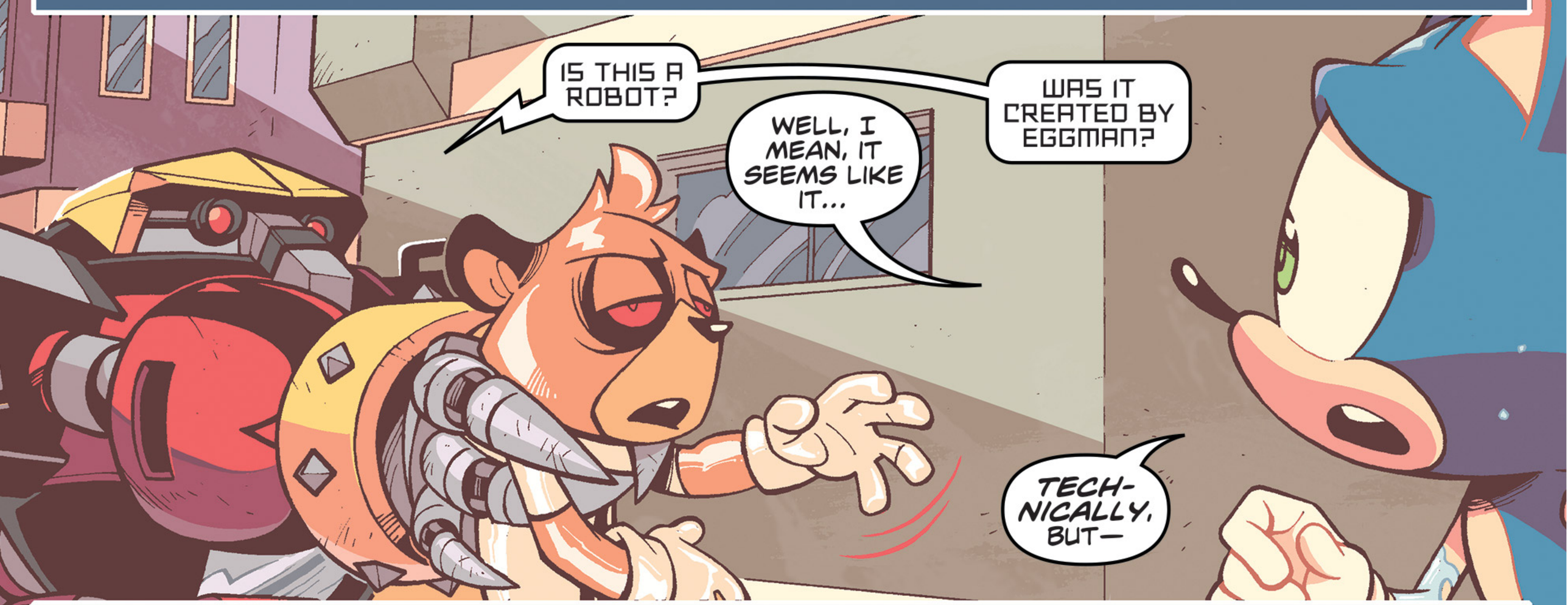

THEY'VE BLOCKED THE DOOR! WE CAN'T GET OUT!

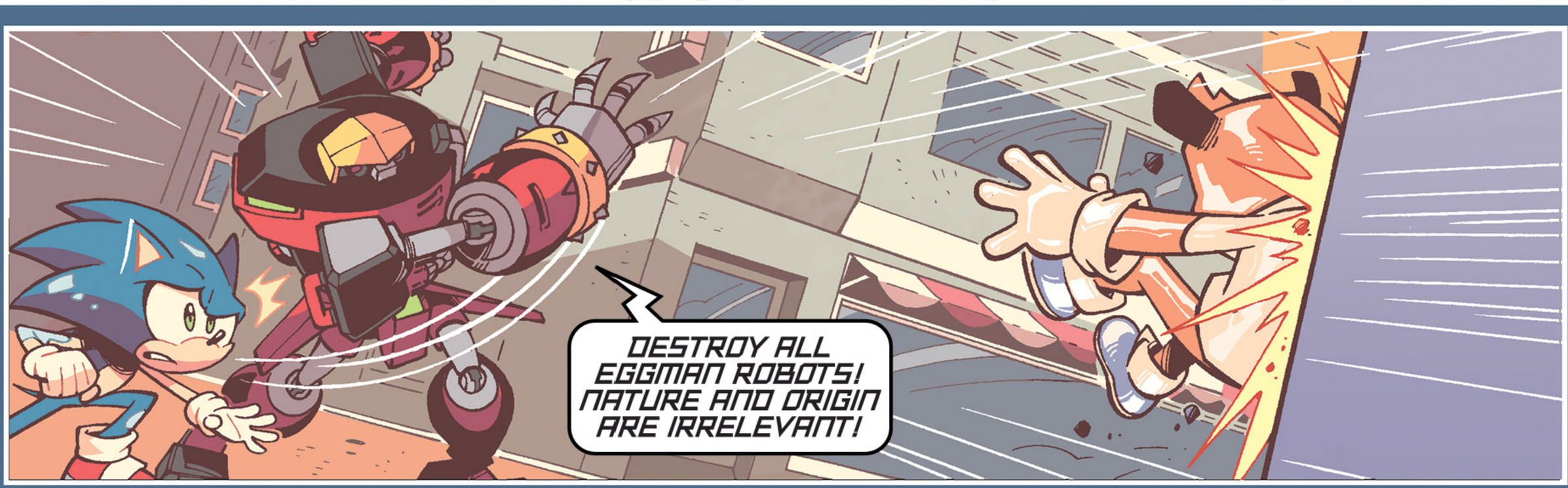
GET READY TO RUN! I'LL CLEAR THEM OUT!

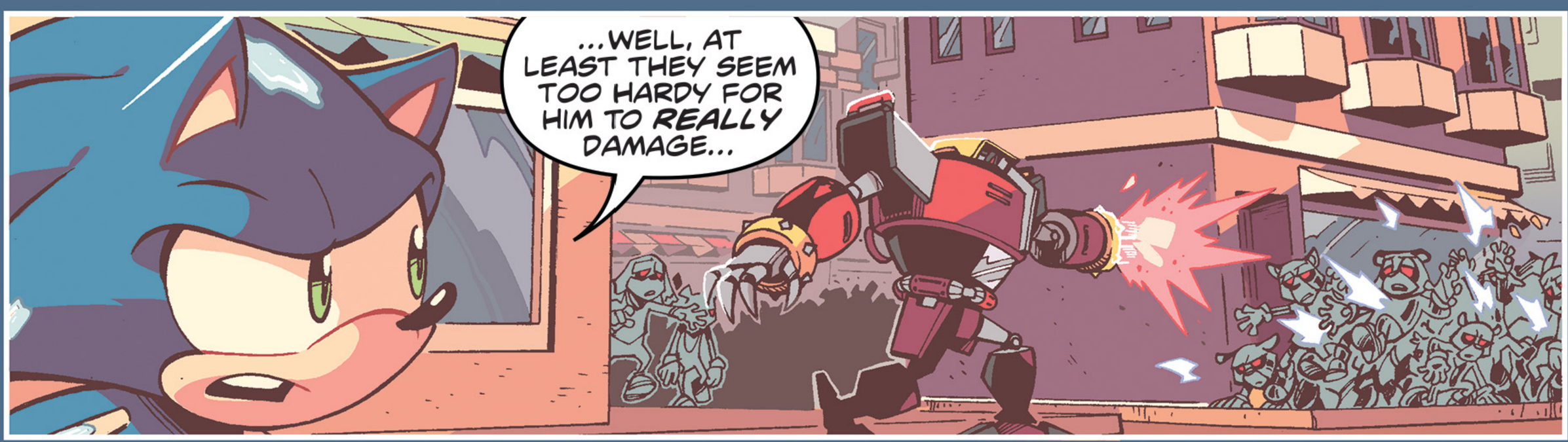

YOW!
BUBA-BUBA-BUBA-BUBA-BUBA-BUBA-BUBA-


HOSTILES ARE RESILIENT. HEAVIER ORDNANCE MAY BE REQUIRED. ALL EGGMAN ROBOTS *MUST* BE ELIMINATED.

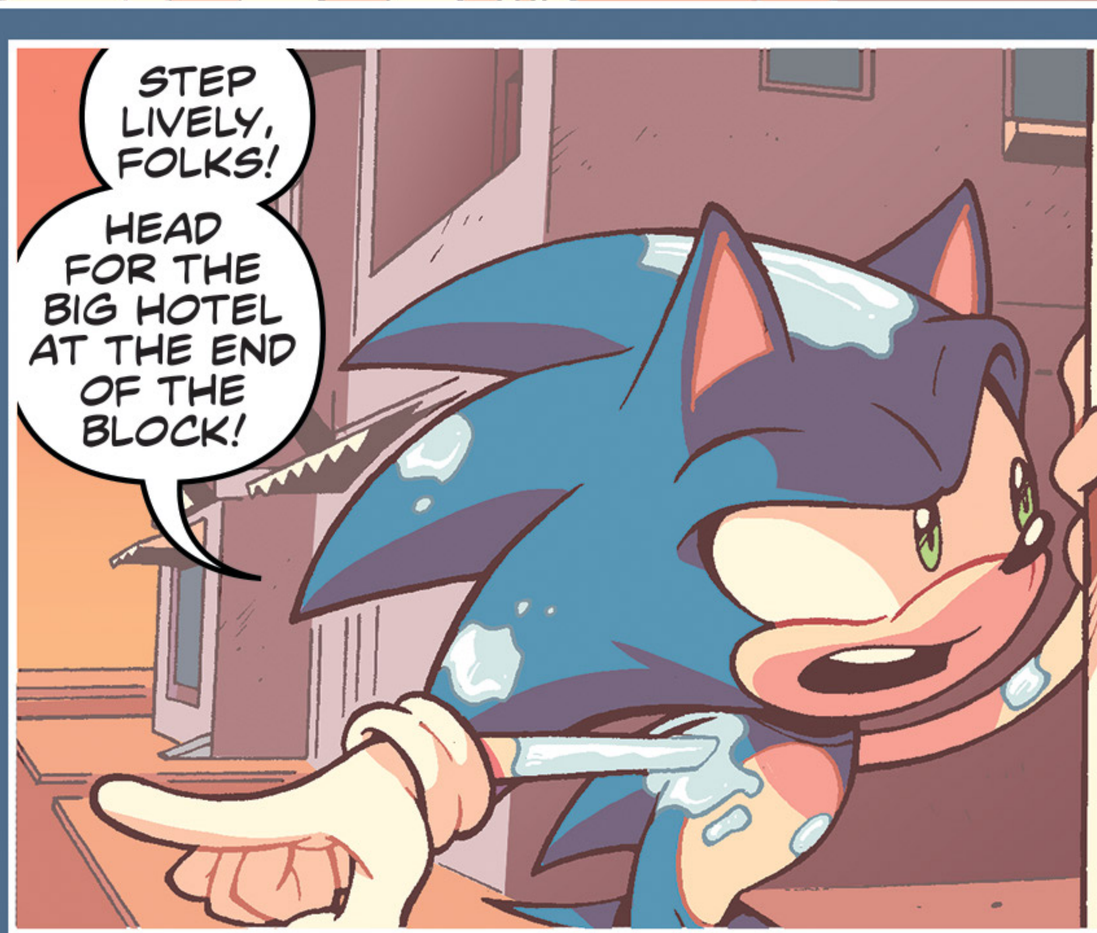

WHOA! HOLD IT, OMEGA! THESE AREN'T YOUR USUAL MASS-PRODUCED BADNIKS!
THESE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE TRANSFORMED BY THE METAL VIRUS! THEY SHOULDN'T BE ON YOUR REVENGE LIST!

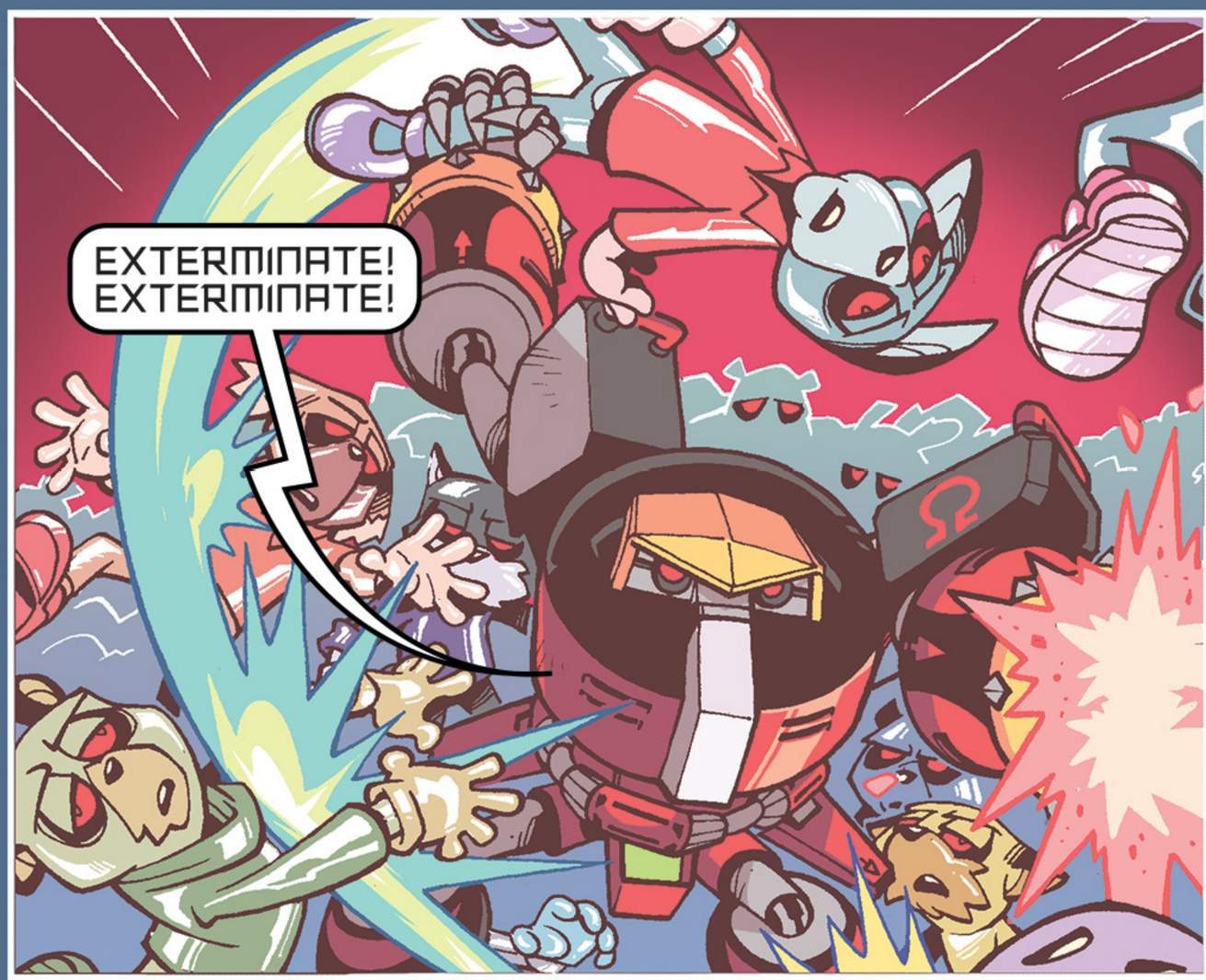

IS THIS A ROBOT?
WELL, I MEAN, IT SEEMS LIKE IT...
WAS IT CREATED BY EGGMAN?
TECH-NICALLY, BUT—

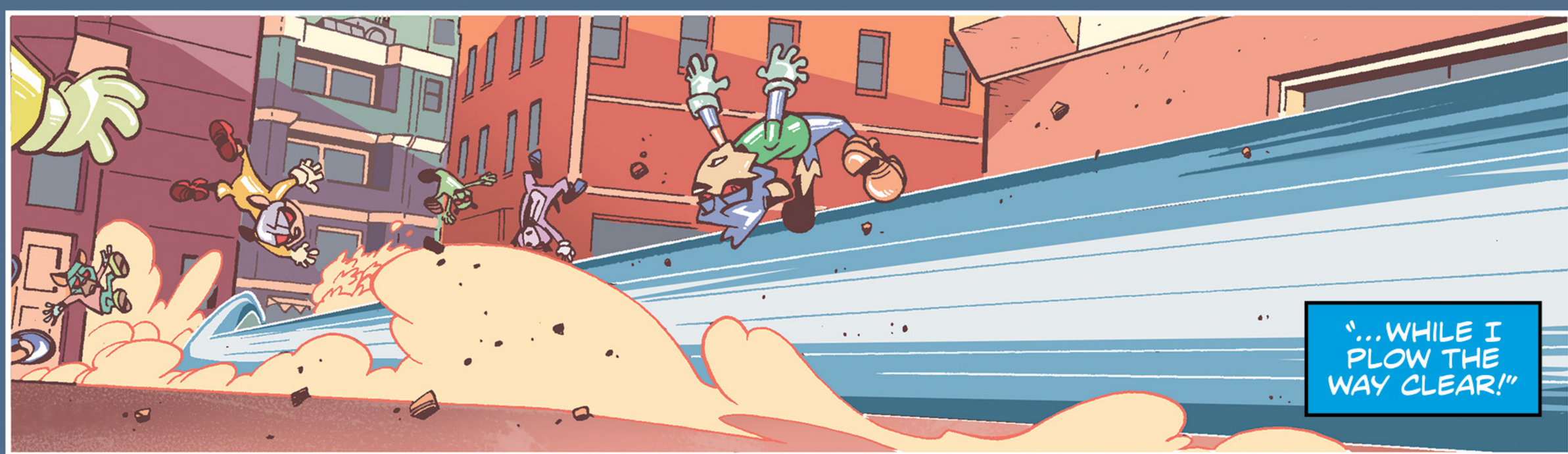

DESTROY ALL EGGMAN ROBOTS! NATURE AND ORIGIN ARE IRRELEVANT!

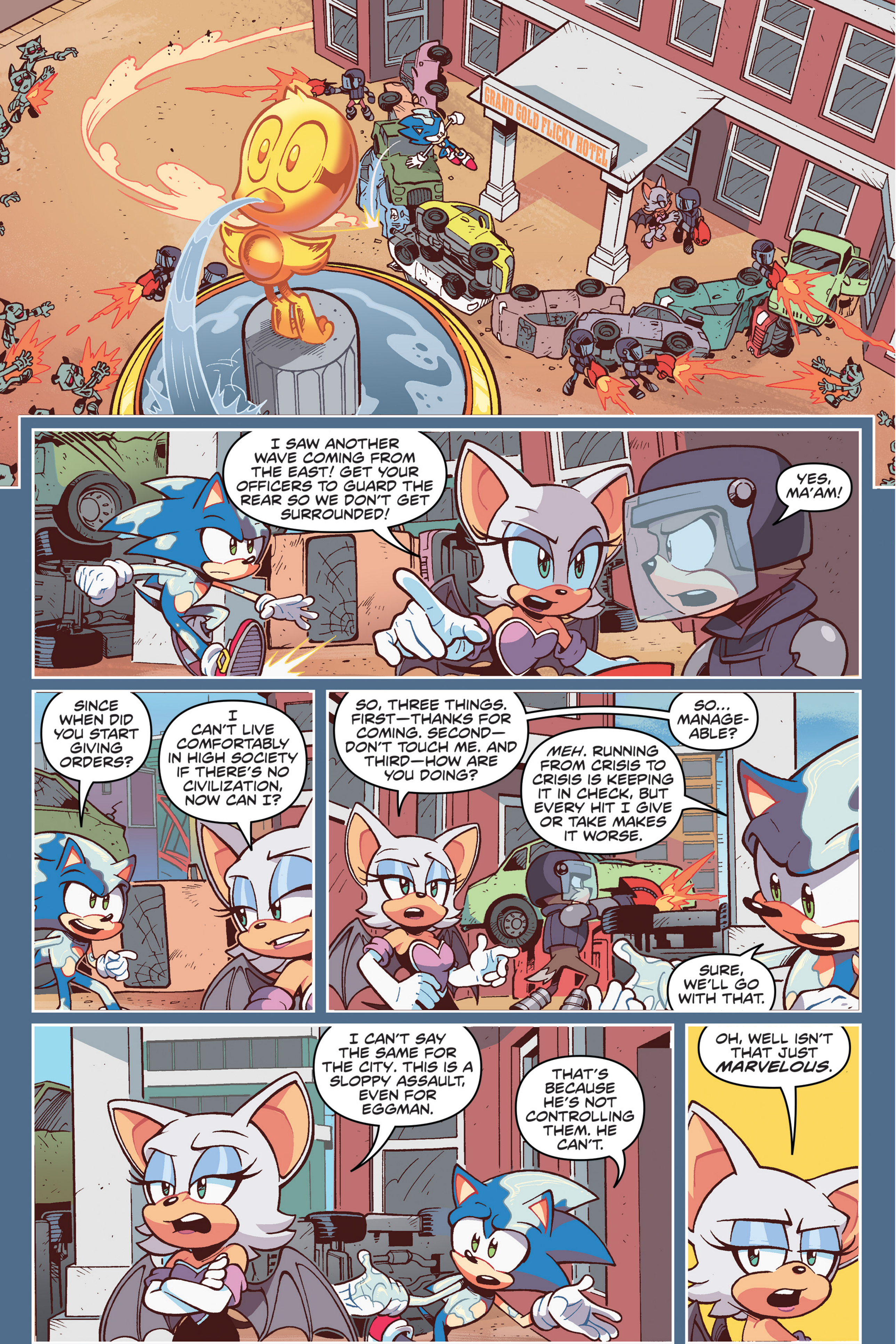

...WELL, AT LEAST THEY SEEM TOO HARDY FOR HIM TO *REALLY* DAMAGE...

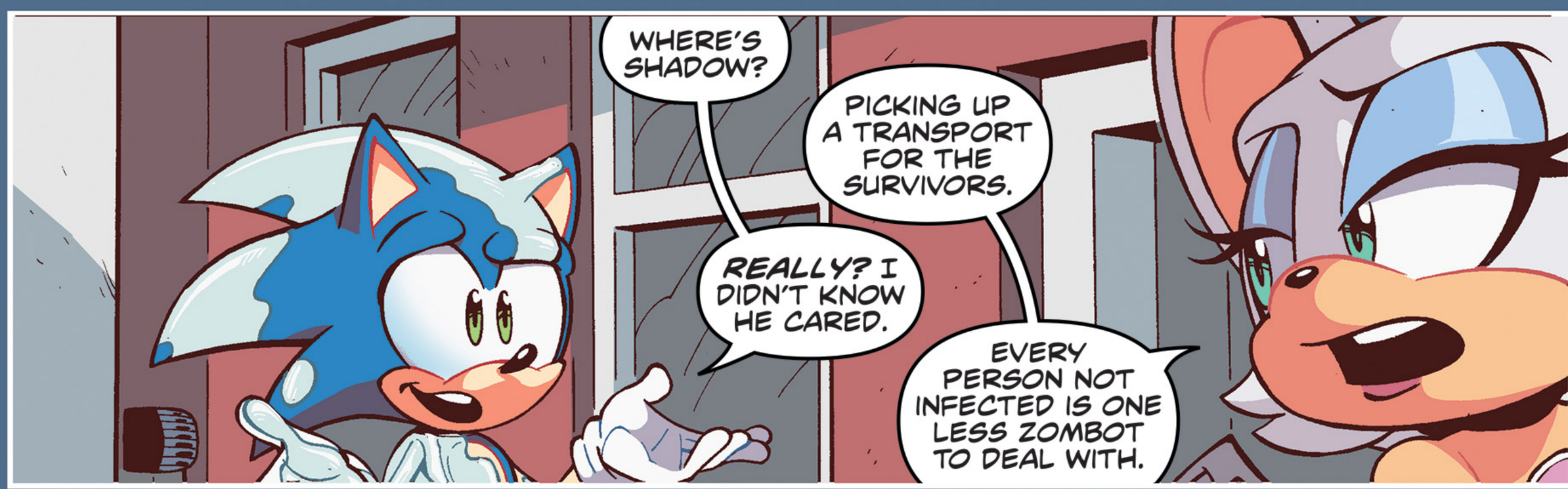
HEY, BLUE!
ROUGE!
SEND EVERYONE TO THE GRAND GOLD FLICKY HOTEL! WE'RE ORGANIZING SURVIVORS THERE!
GOT IT!



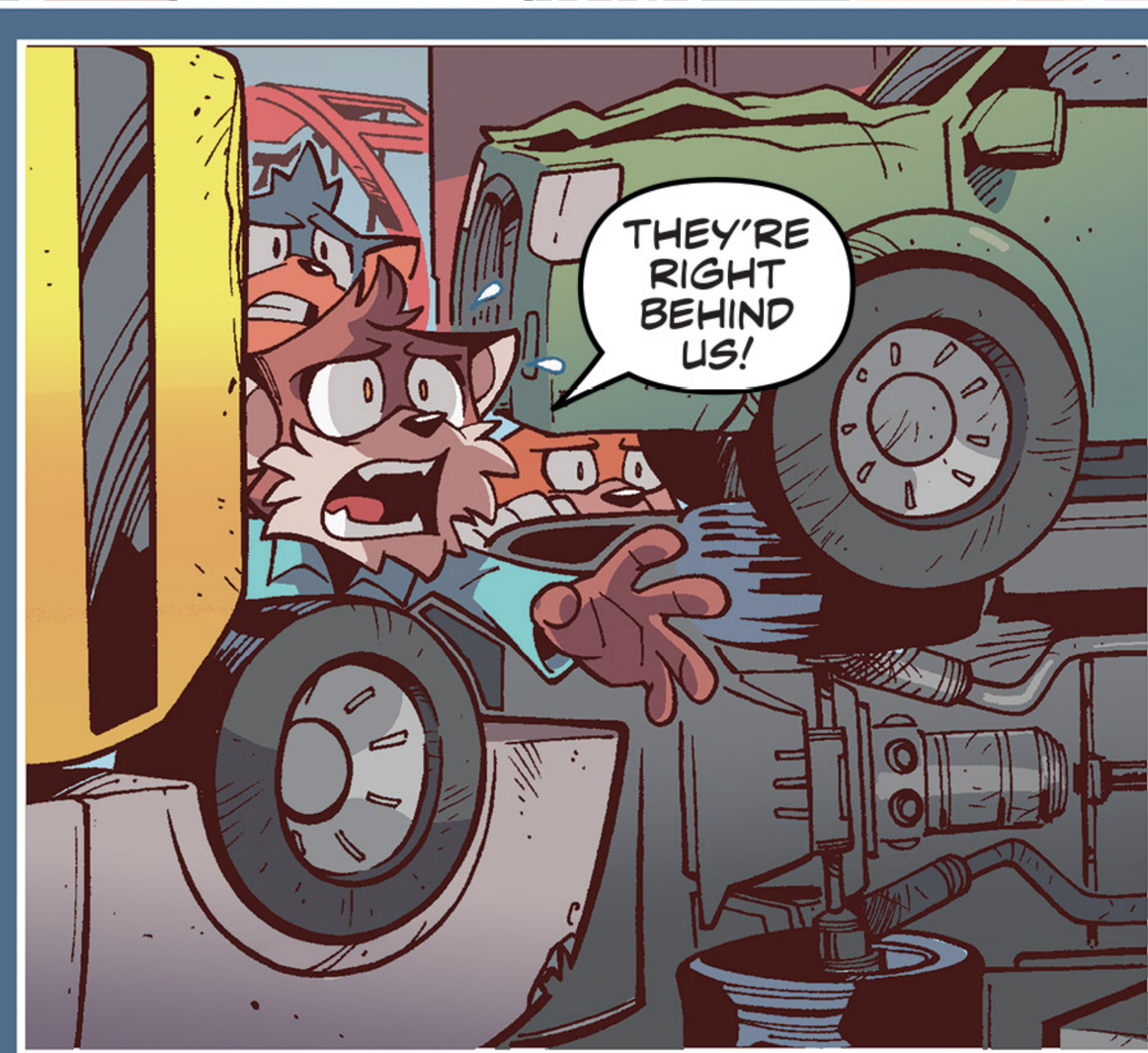





GRAND GOLD FLICKY HOTEL
I SAW ANOTHER WAVE COMING FROM THE EAST! GET YOUR OFFICERS TO GUARD THE REAR SO WE DON'T GET SURROUNDED!
YES, MA'AM!
SINCE WHEN DID YOU START GIVING ORDERS?
I CAN'T LIVE COMFORTABLY IN HIGH SOCIETY IF THERE'S NO CIVILIZATION, NOW CAN I?
SO, THREE THINGS. FIRST—THANKS FOR COMING. SECOND—DON'T TOUCH ME. AND THIRD—HOW ARE YOU DOING?
MEH. RUNNING FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS IS KEEPING IT IN CHECK, BUT EVERY HIT I GIVE OR TAKE MAKES IT WORSE.
SO... MANAGE-ABLE?
SURE, WE'LL GO WITH THAT.
I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THE CITY. THIS IS A SLOPPY ASSAULT, EVEN FOR EGGMAN.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S NOT CONTROLLING THEM. HE CAN'T.
OH, WELL ISN'T THAT JUST MARVELOUS.

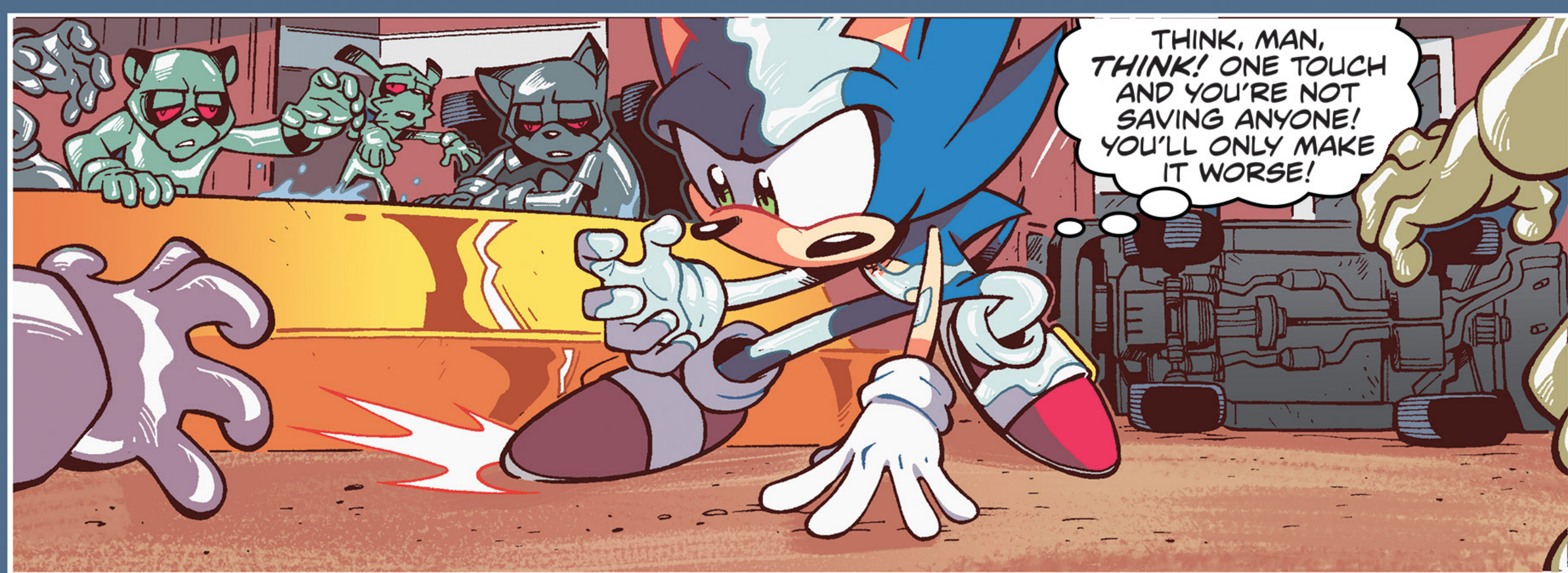

WHERE'S SHADOW?
PICKING UP A TRANSPORT FOR THE SURVIVORS.
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW HE CARED.
EVERY PERSON NOT INFECTED IS ONE LESS ZOMBOT TO DEAL WITH.

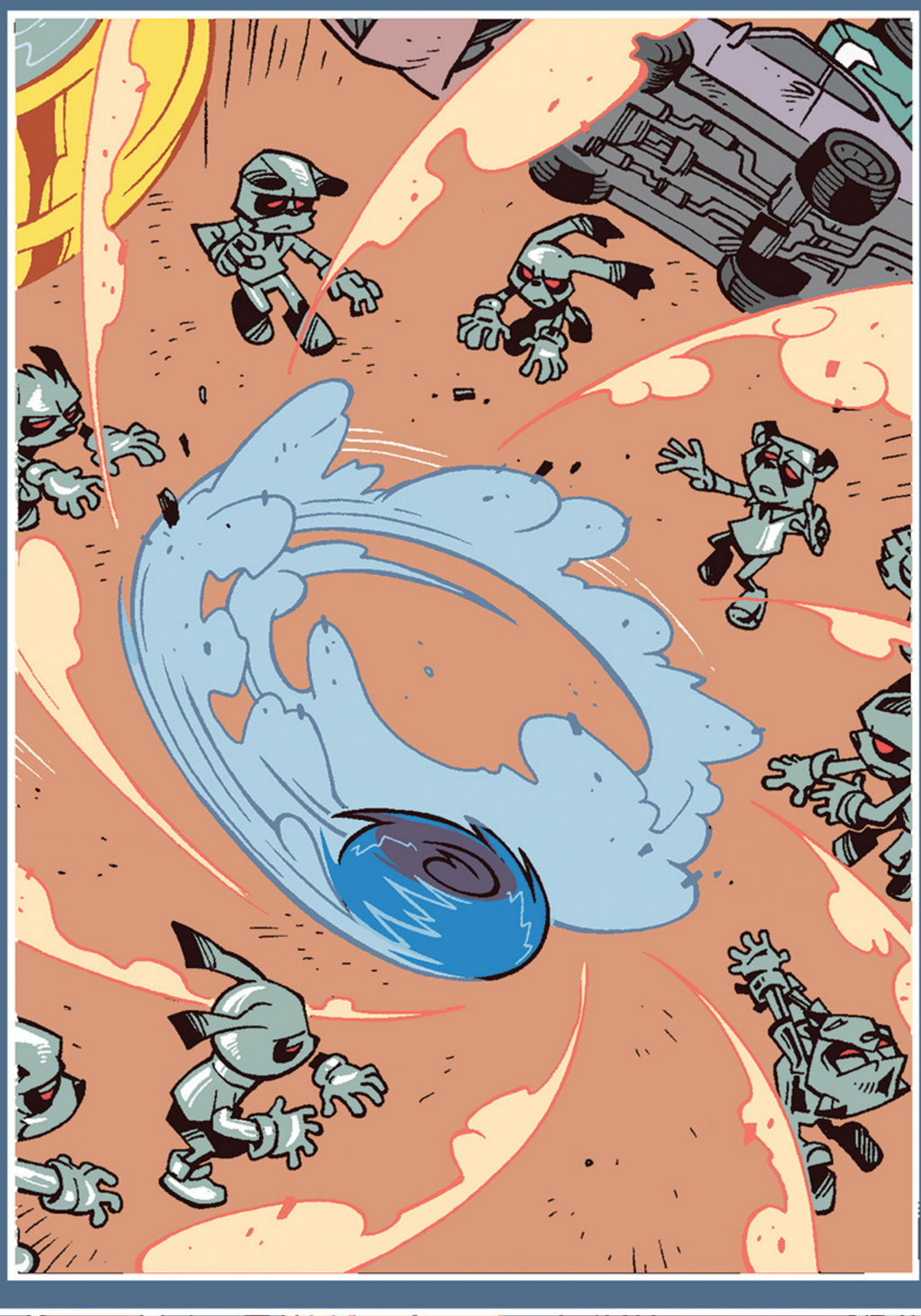
HELP!

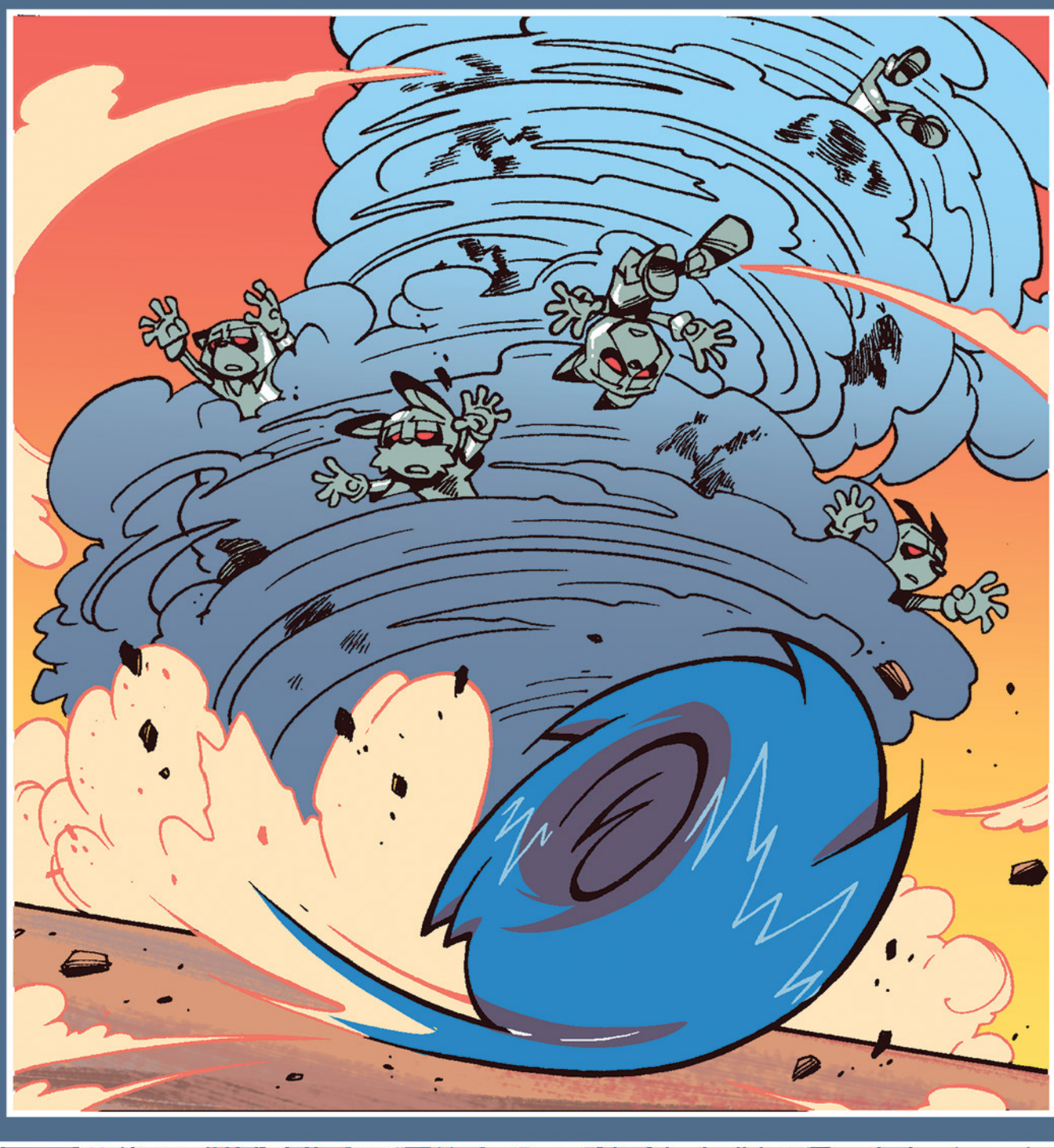

THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US!

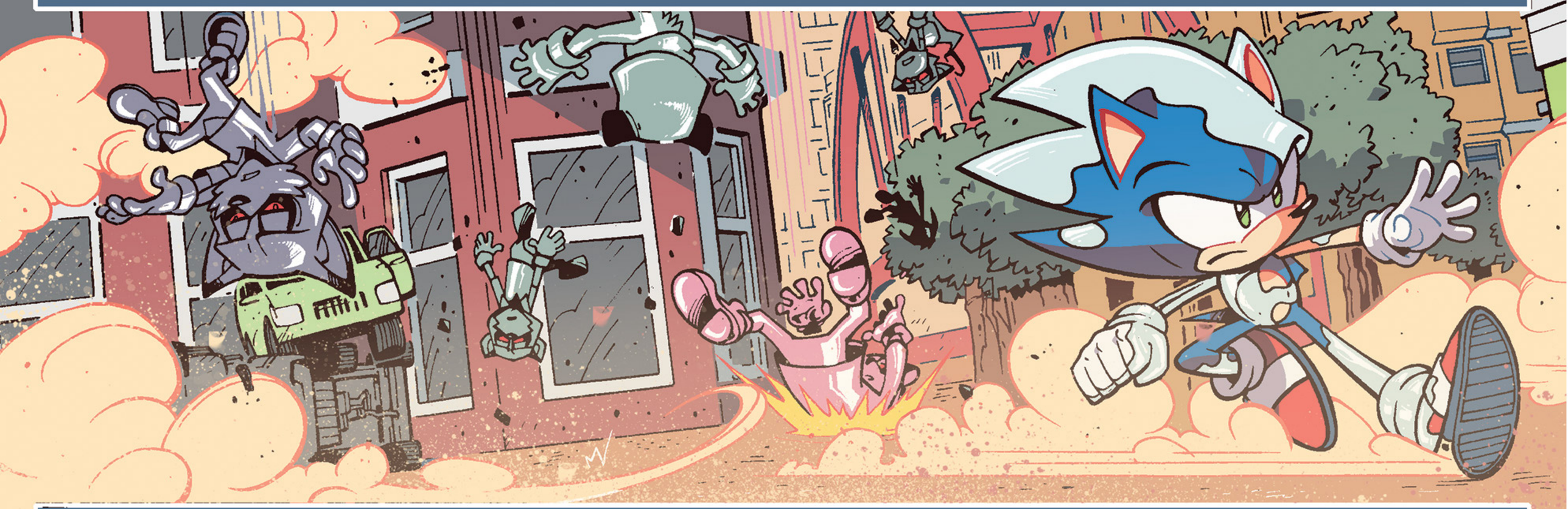
GRAB MY HAND! I'LL—

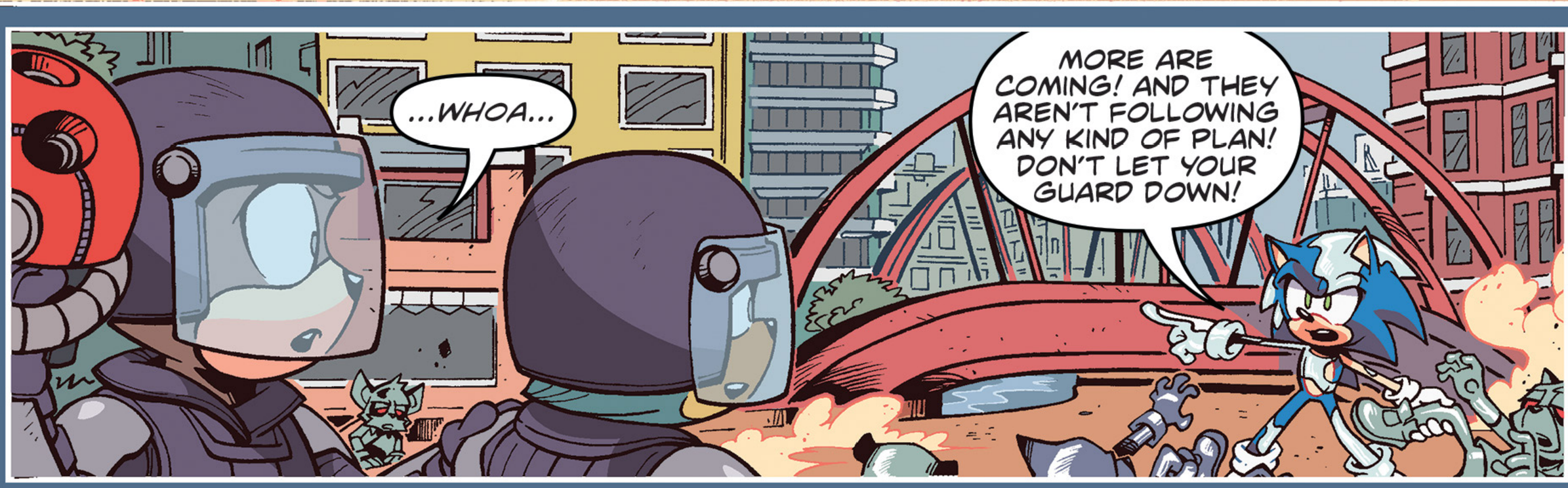
NOPE.


THINK, MAN, THINK! ONE TOUCH AND YOU'RE NOT SAVING ANYONE! YOU'LL ONLY MAKE IT WORSE!

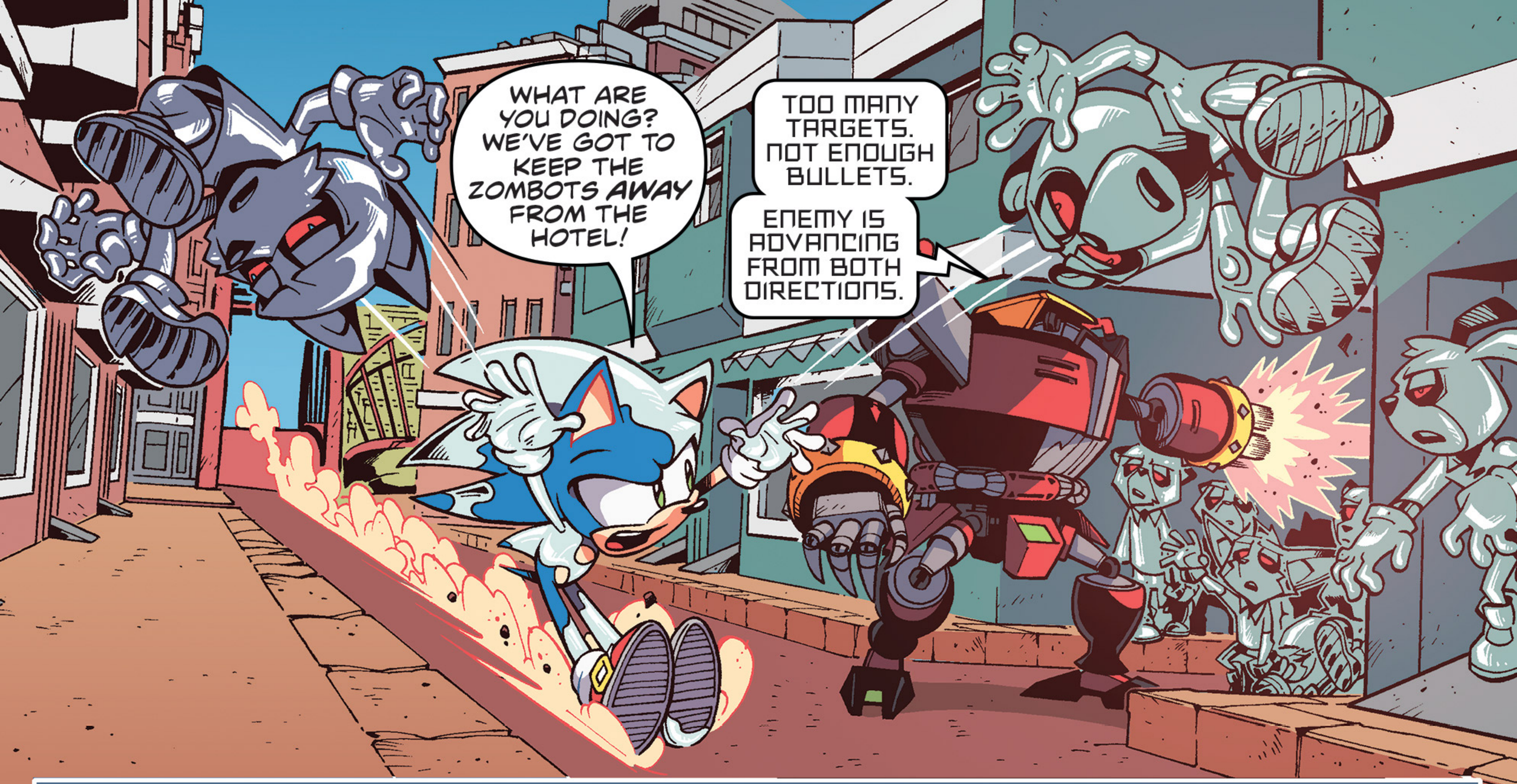


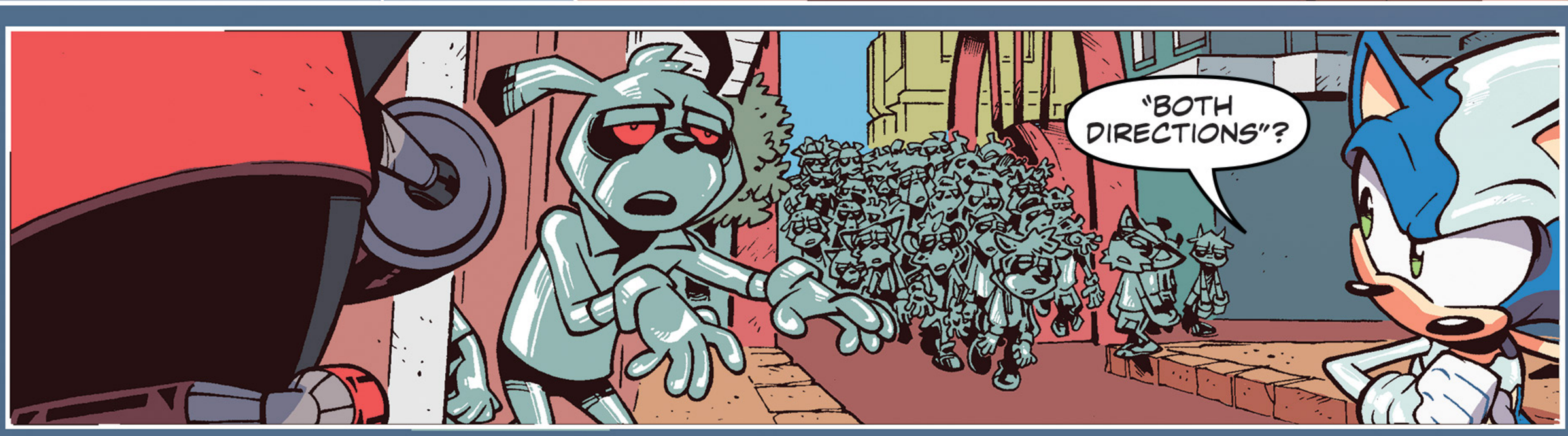


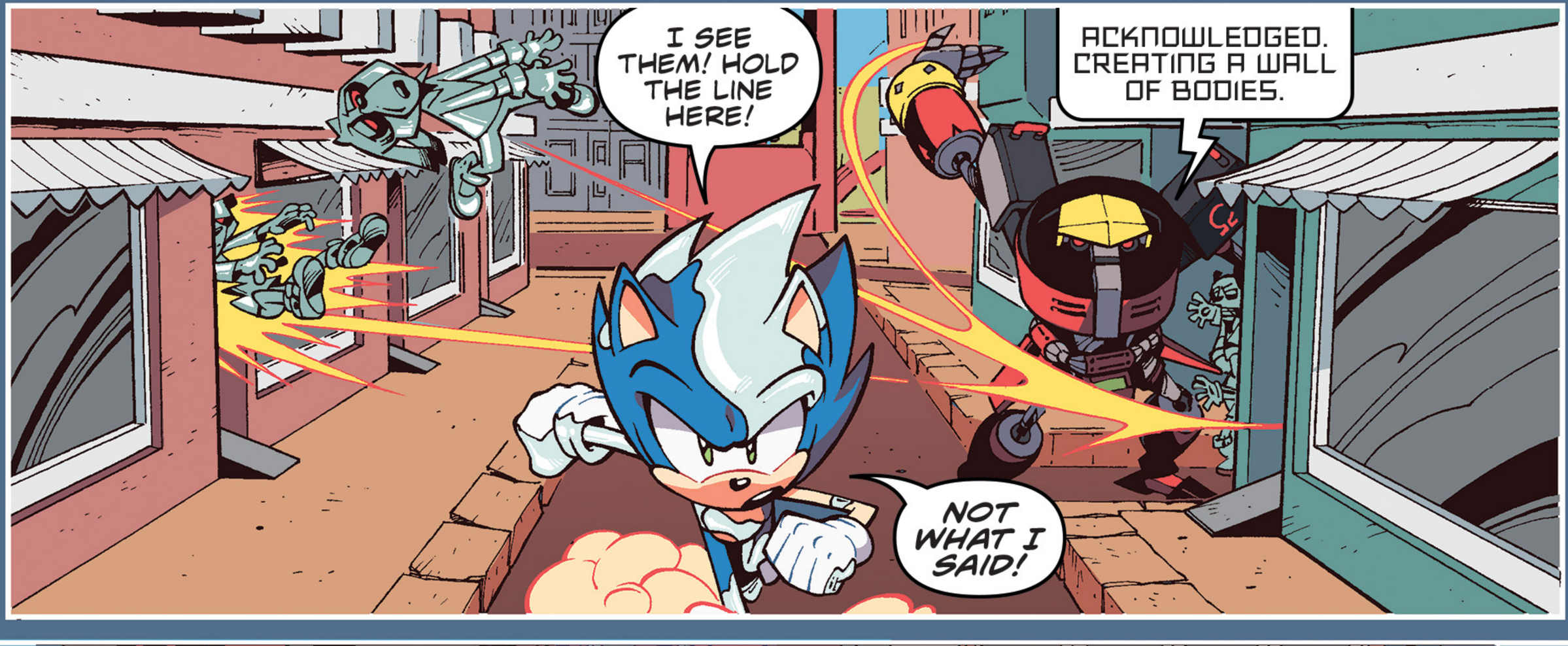



...WHOA...
MORE ARE COMING! AND THEY AREN'T FOLLOWING ANY KIND OF PLAN! DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

GOTTA KEEP UP THE PACE. I'M NOT LOSING ANOTHER ONE OF MY FRIENDS TO THIS MESS!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THE ZOMBOTS AWAY FROM THE HOTEL!
TOO MANY TARGETS. NOT ENOUGH BULLETS.
ENEMY IS ADVANCING FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS.


"BOTH DIRECTIONS"?


I SEE THEM! HOLD THE LINE HERE!
ACKNOWLEDGED. CREATING A WALL OF BODIES.
NOT WHAT I SAID!

WHAT THE...?

HOOOOOONK
SCREEEEECH
KOFF KOFF
THERE YOU ARE! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
COULDN'T FIND A BIGGER ONE?
SHUT.
UP.

EASY. I WAS KIDDING.

THIS IS YOUR FAULT. IF I HAD DESTROYED EGGMAN IN WINDMILL VILLAGE,* *NONE* OF THIS WOULD BE HAPPENING.

*STH #6.

SOME CREEP CALLED STARLINE MADE HIM EVIL AGAIN! NOBODY COULD'VE SEEN THAT COMING!

FEH. EXCUSES.

YO! I'M DEALING WITH IT TOO! I'M INFECTED! *SEE?*

IT'S WHAT YOU DESERVE.

I'M GONNA GO TAKE CARE OF MY INFECTION. THANKS FOR BRINGING THE TRUCK.

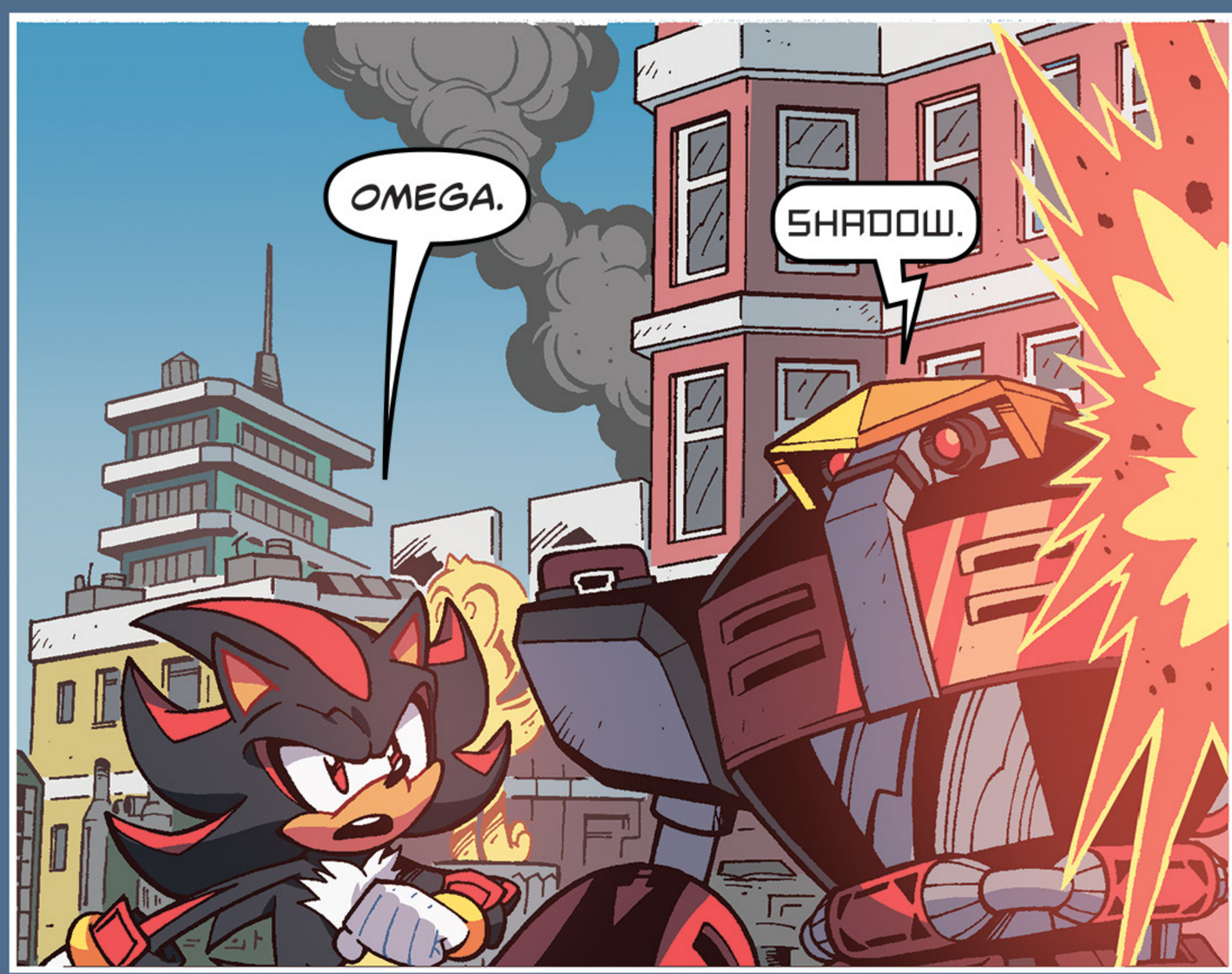
DON'T LET THE ZOMBOTS TOUCH YOU.

I KNOW.

IF IT HAPPENS, YOU SHOULD BE FAST ENOUGH TO RUN IT OFF LIKE ME.

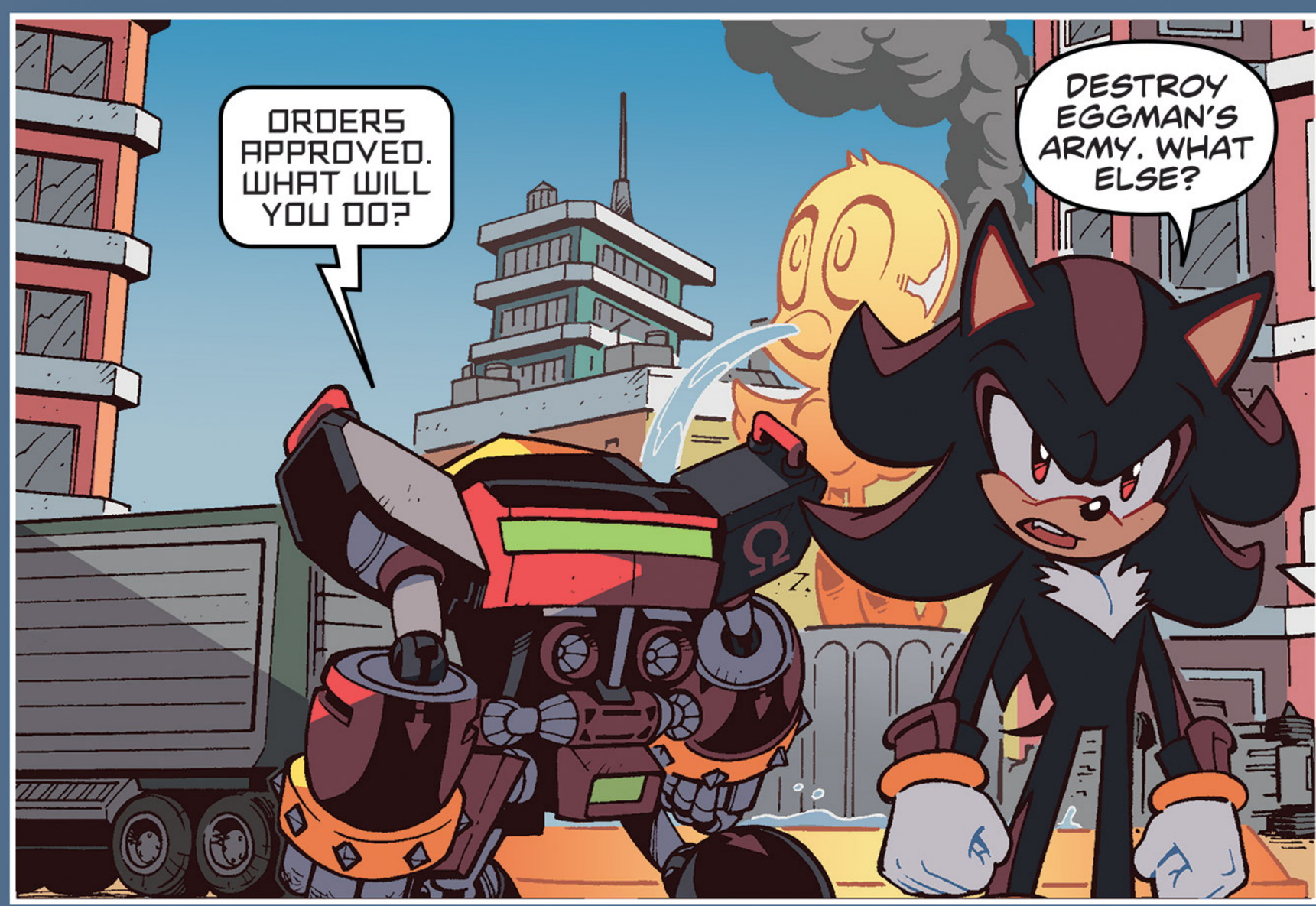
COWARDS RUN.

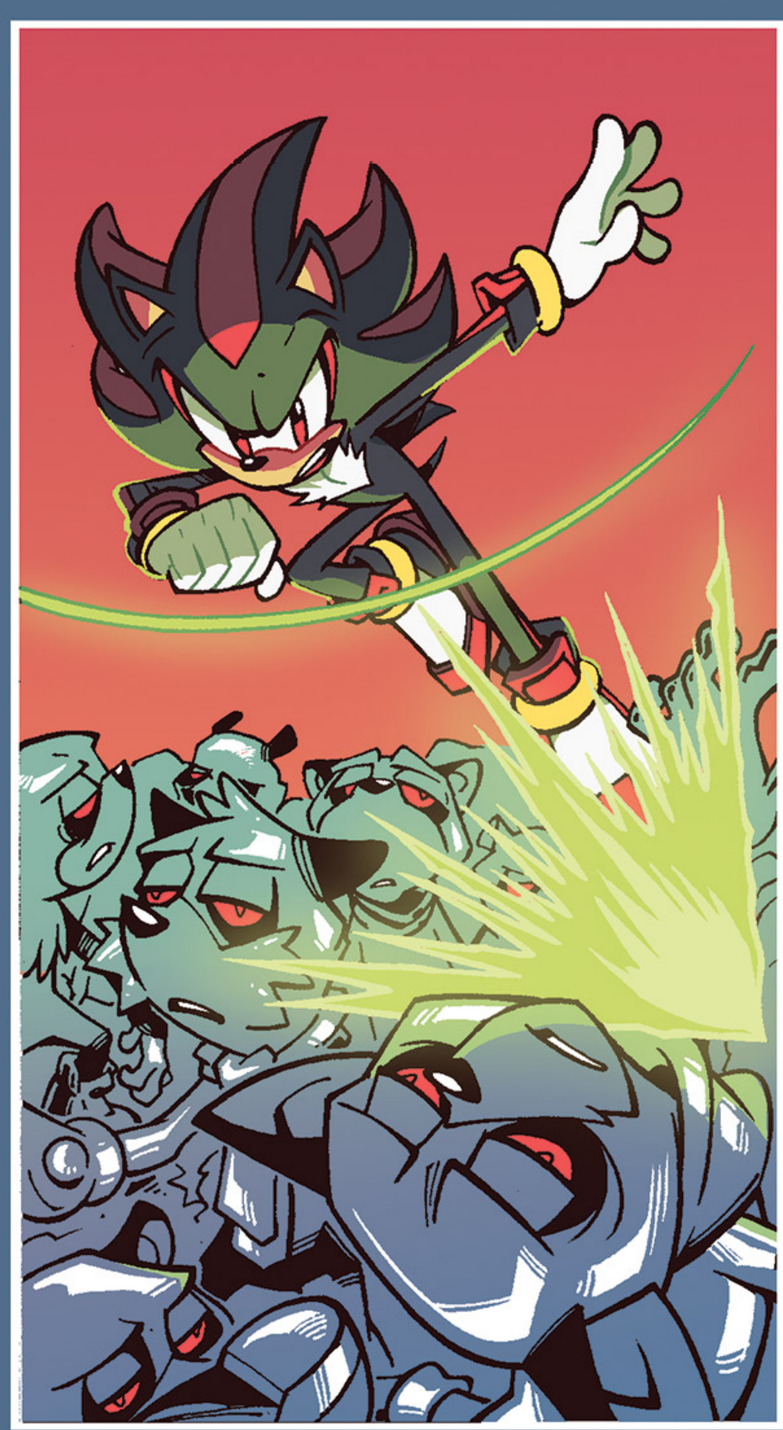
I WIN.

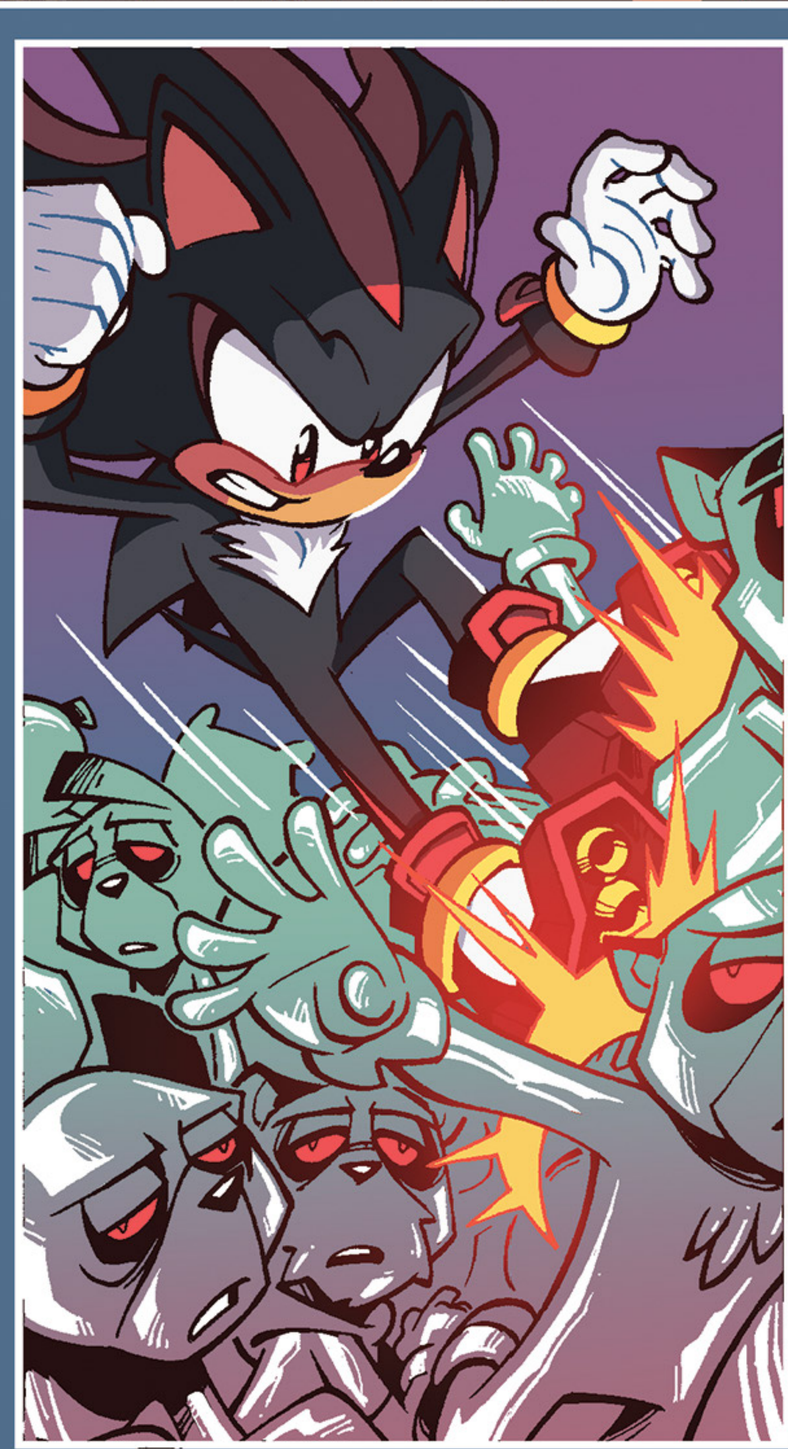

OMEGA.
SHADOW.

SAFEGUARD THE TRUCK WHILE ROUGE OVERSEES THE EVACUATION.

CONSIDERING.
TRUCK AND REFUGEES WILL BE THE ZOMBOTS' PRIMARY TARGET. THIS WILL BRING ADDITIONAL TARGETS TO ME.


ORDERS APPROVED. WHAT WILL YOU DO?
DESTROY EGGMAN'S ARMY. WHAT ELSE?



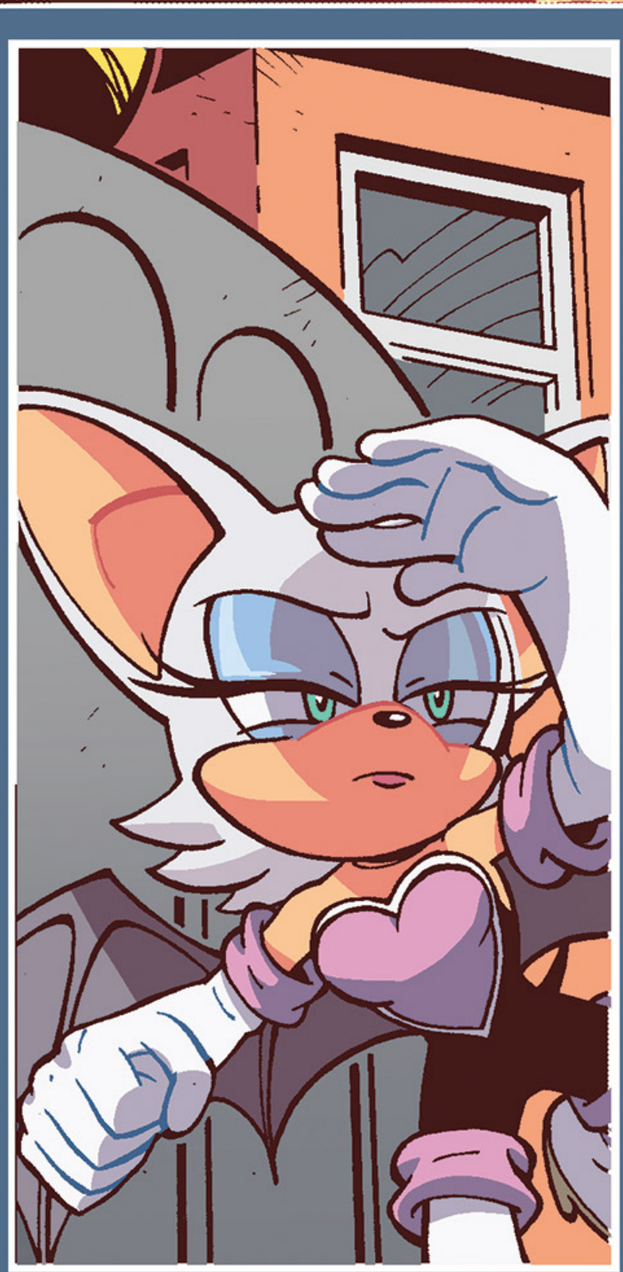


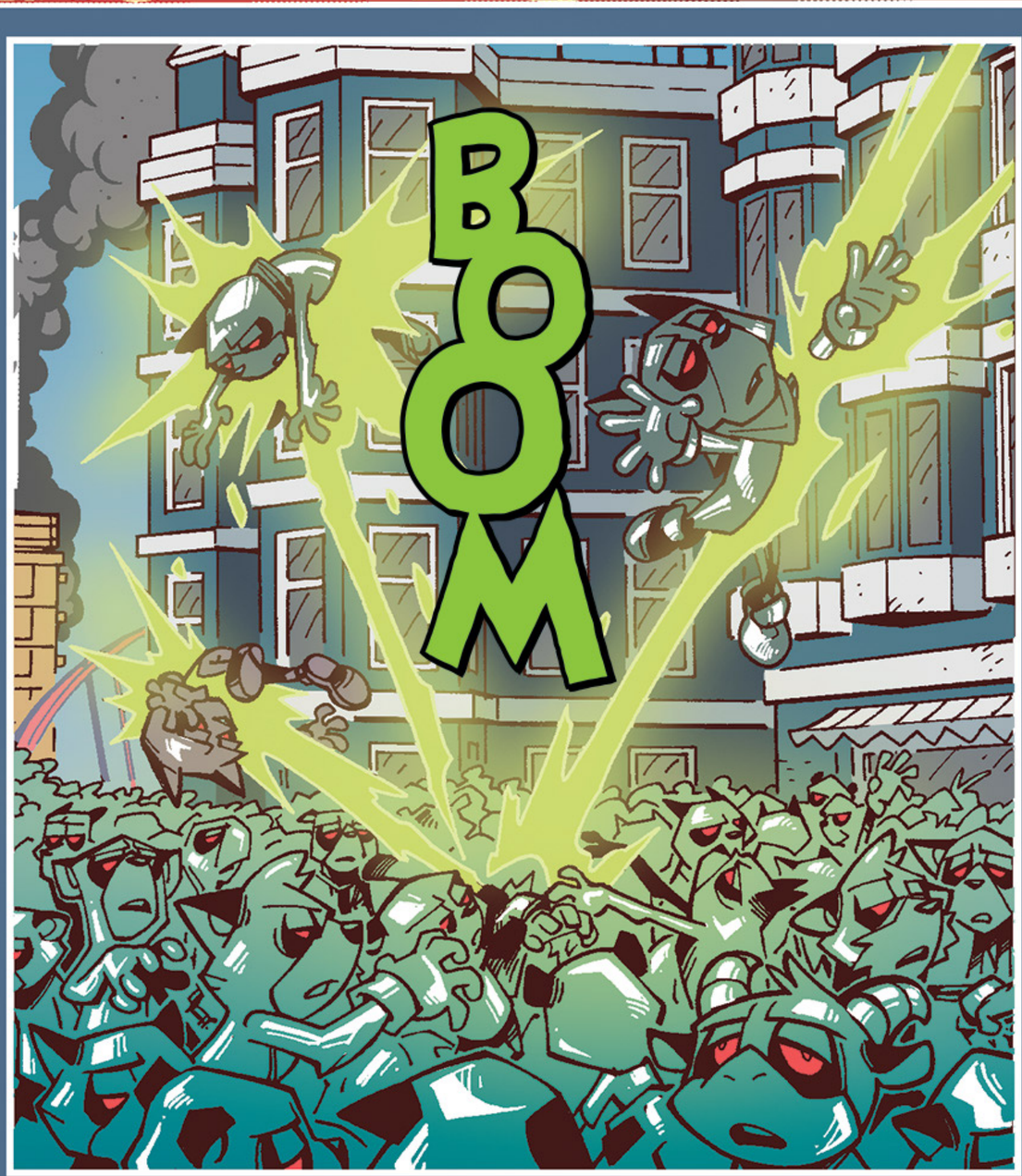
KEEP IT QUICK AND ORDERLY PEOPLE! GET COZY! THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH SPACE!

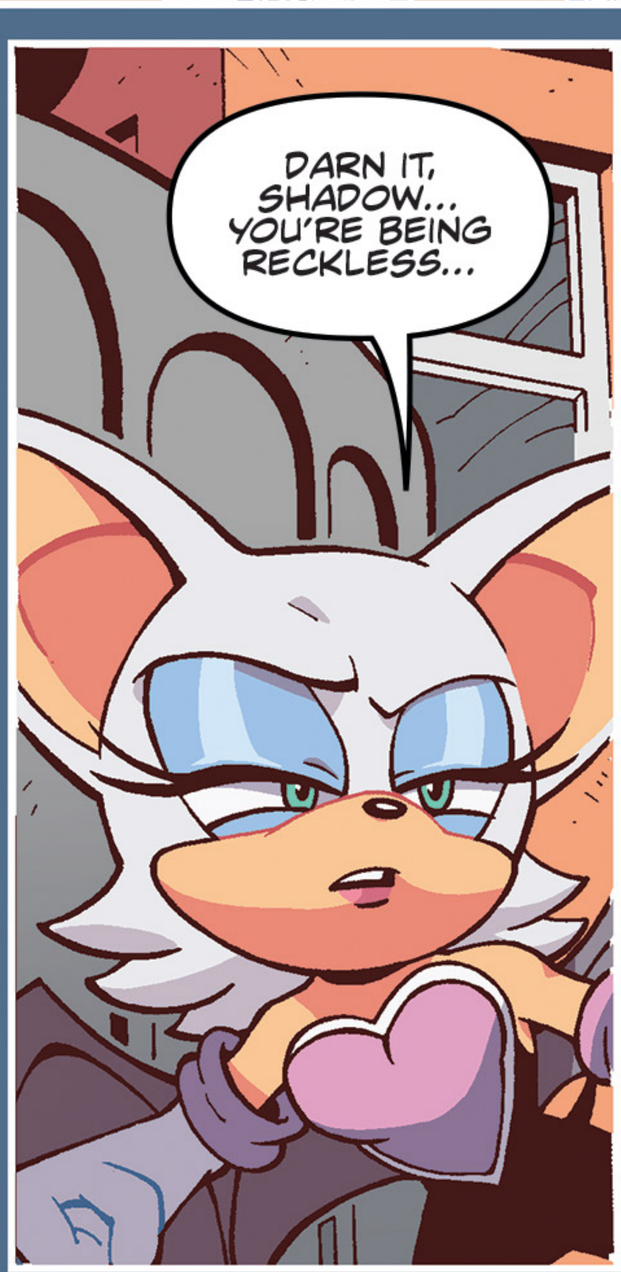
ADVANCE SO I MAY SHOOT YOU!

BUDDA-BUDDA-

BUDDA-BUDDA-

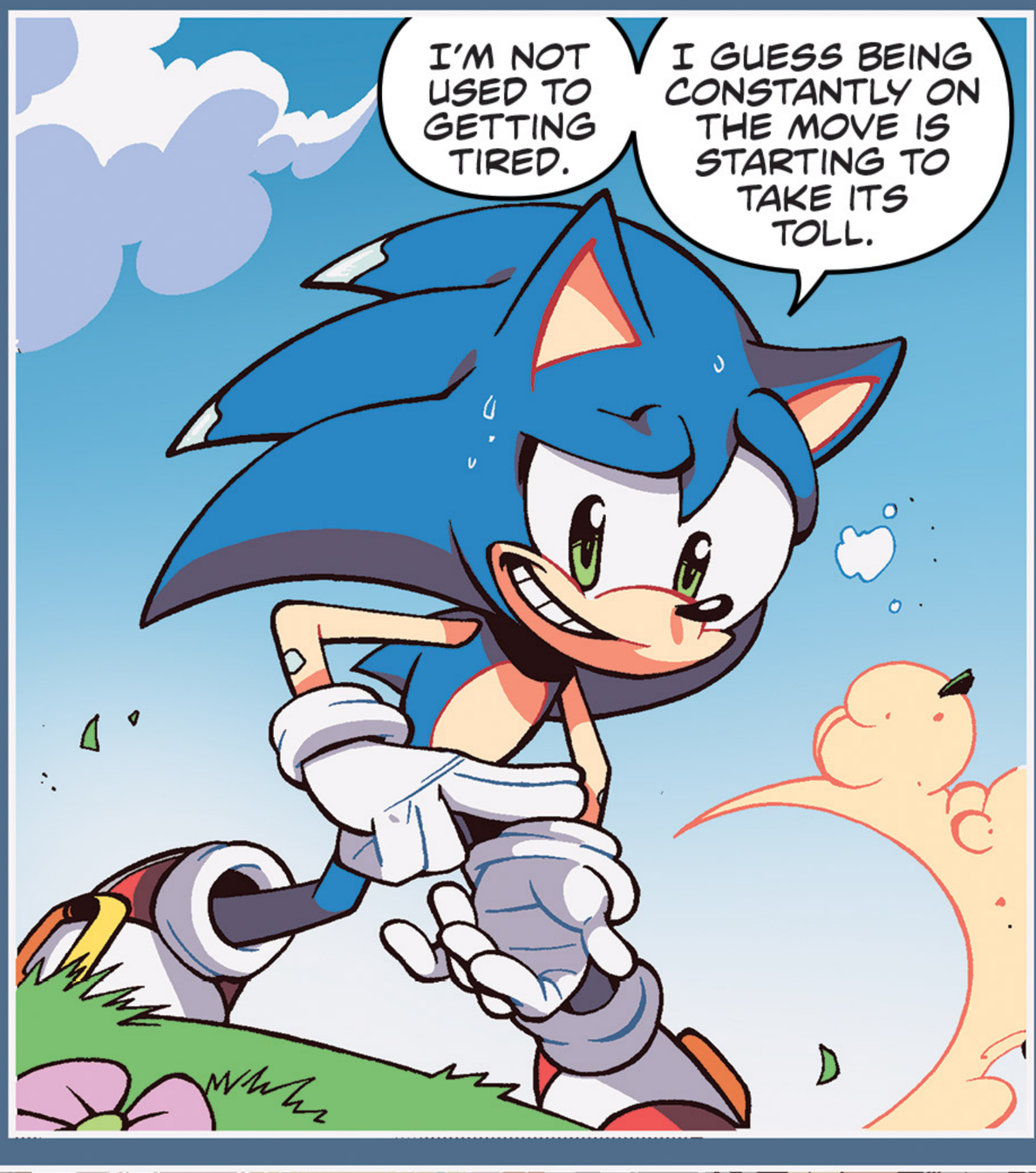




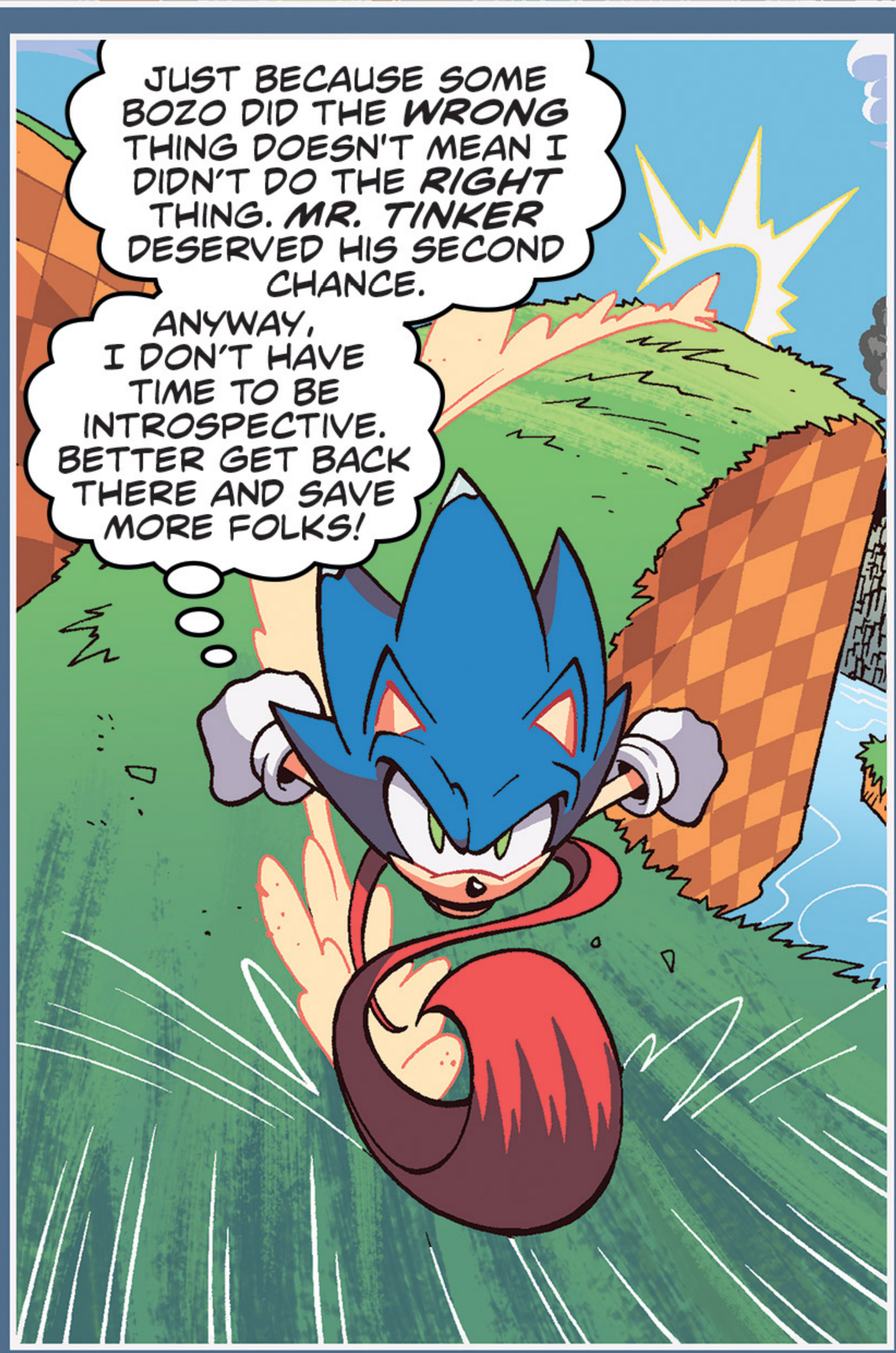


WHAM
CRACK
HMPH. RESILIENT.
BUT SO AM I.
THE DOCTOR'S METAL VIRUS CAN'T INFECT THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM!

WHEW! THAT WAS ENTIRELY UPHILL!


I'M NOT USED TO GETTING TIRED.
I GUESS BEING CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE IS STARTING TO TAKE ITS TOLL.

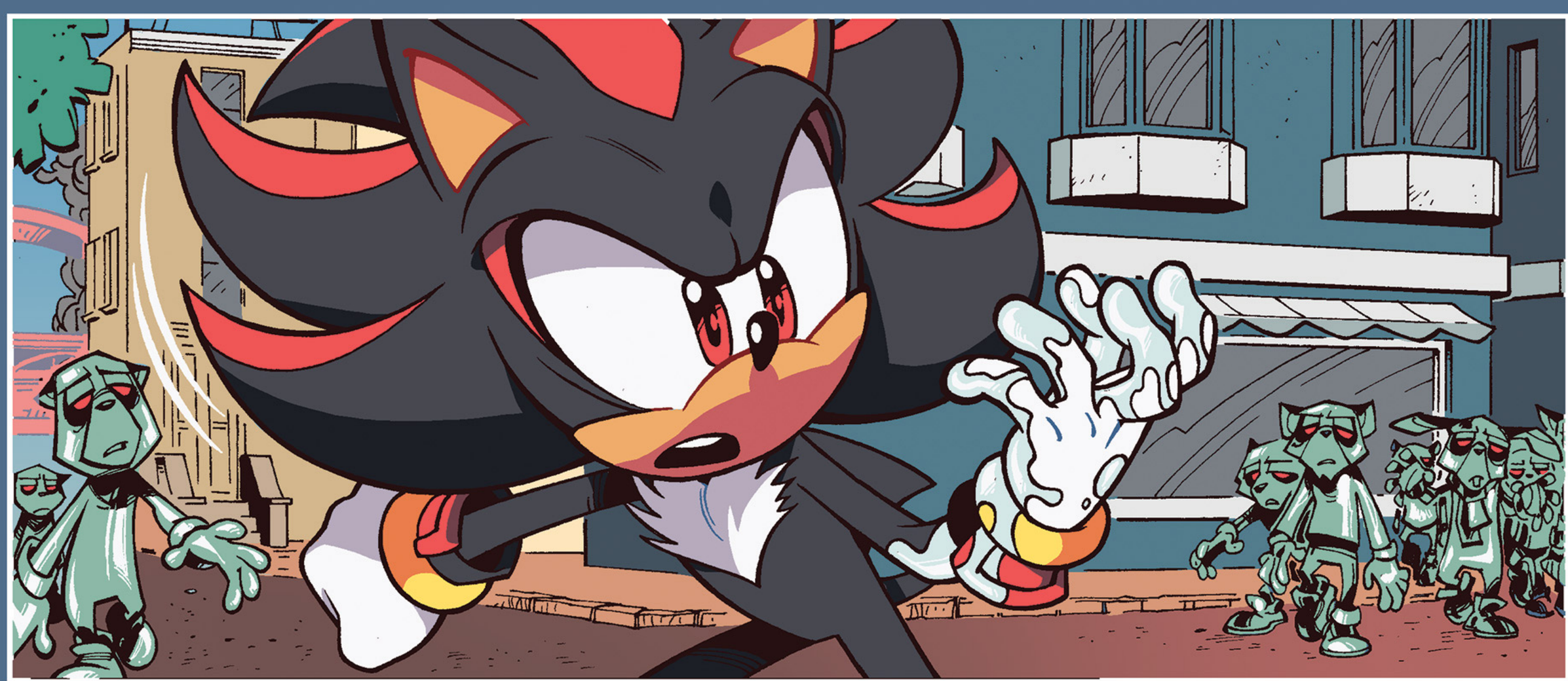
CHARMY... CHEESE... CHOCOLA... WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD...


JUST BECAUSE SOME BOZO DID THE *WRONG* THING DOESN'T MEAN I DIDN'T DO THE *RIGHT* THING. *MR. TINKER* DESERVED HIS SECOND CHANCE.
ANYWAY, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE INTROSPECTIVE. BETTER GET BACK THERE AND SAVE MORE FOLKS!

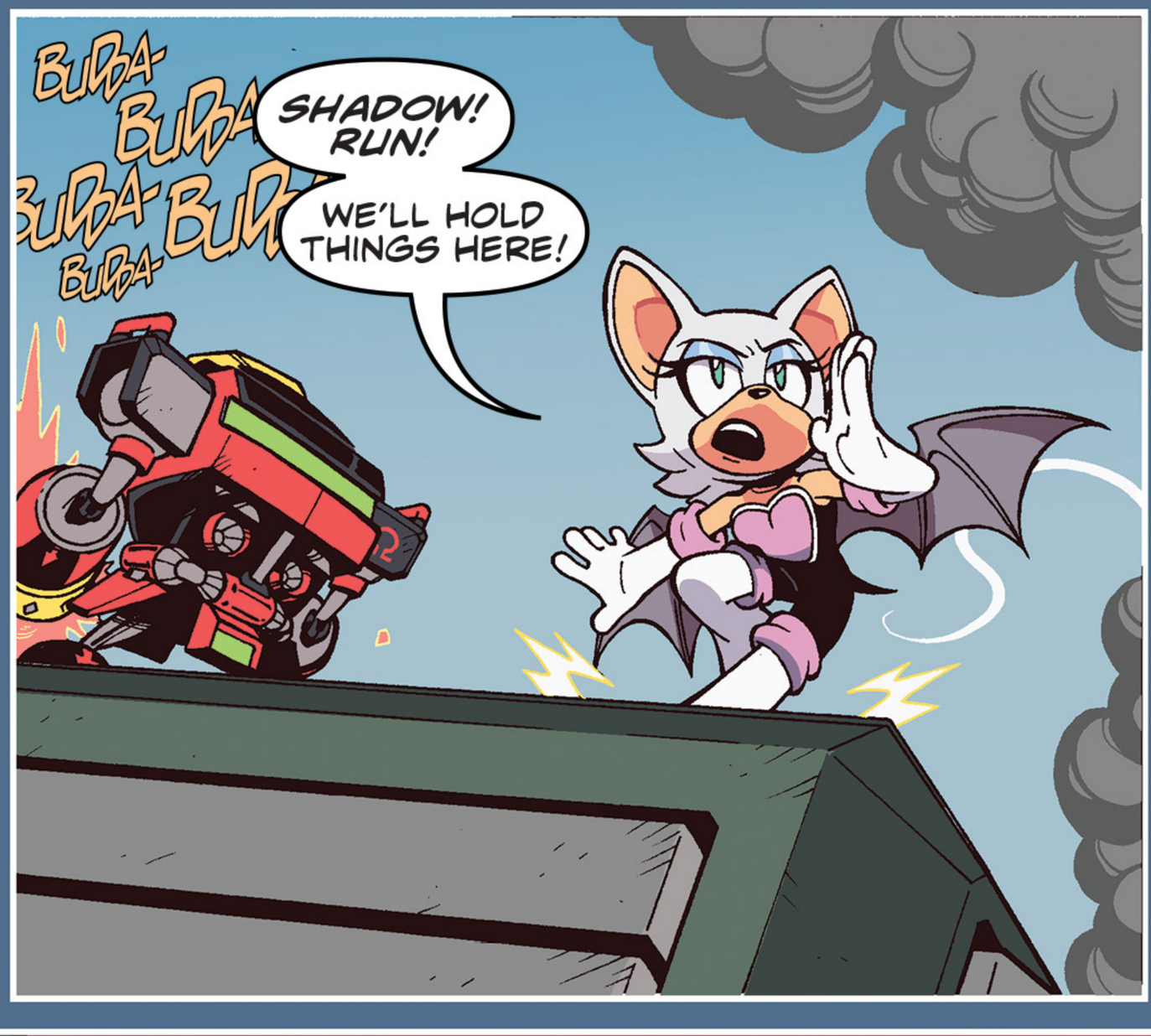
WHOOSH

WHAM

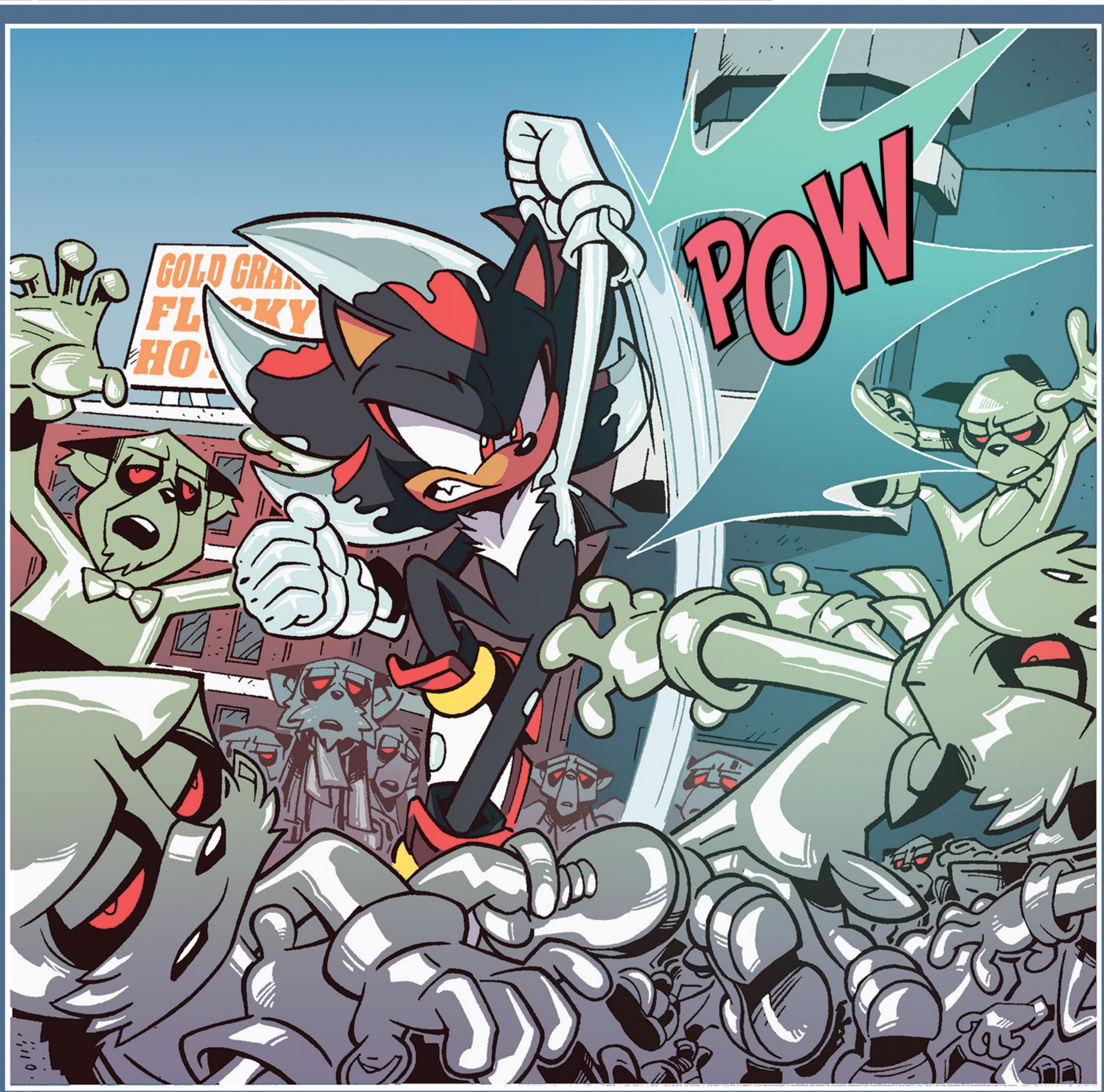
CRASH



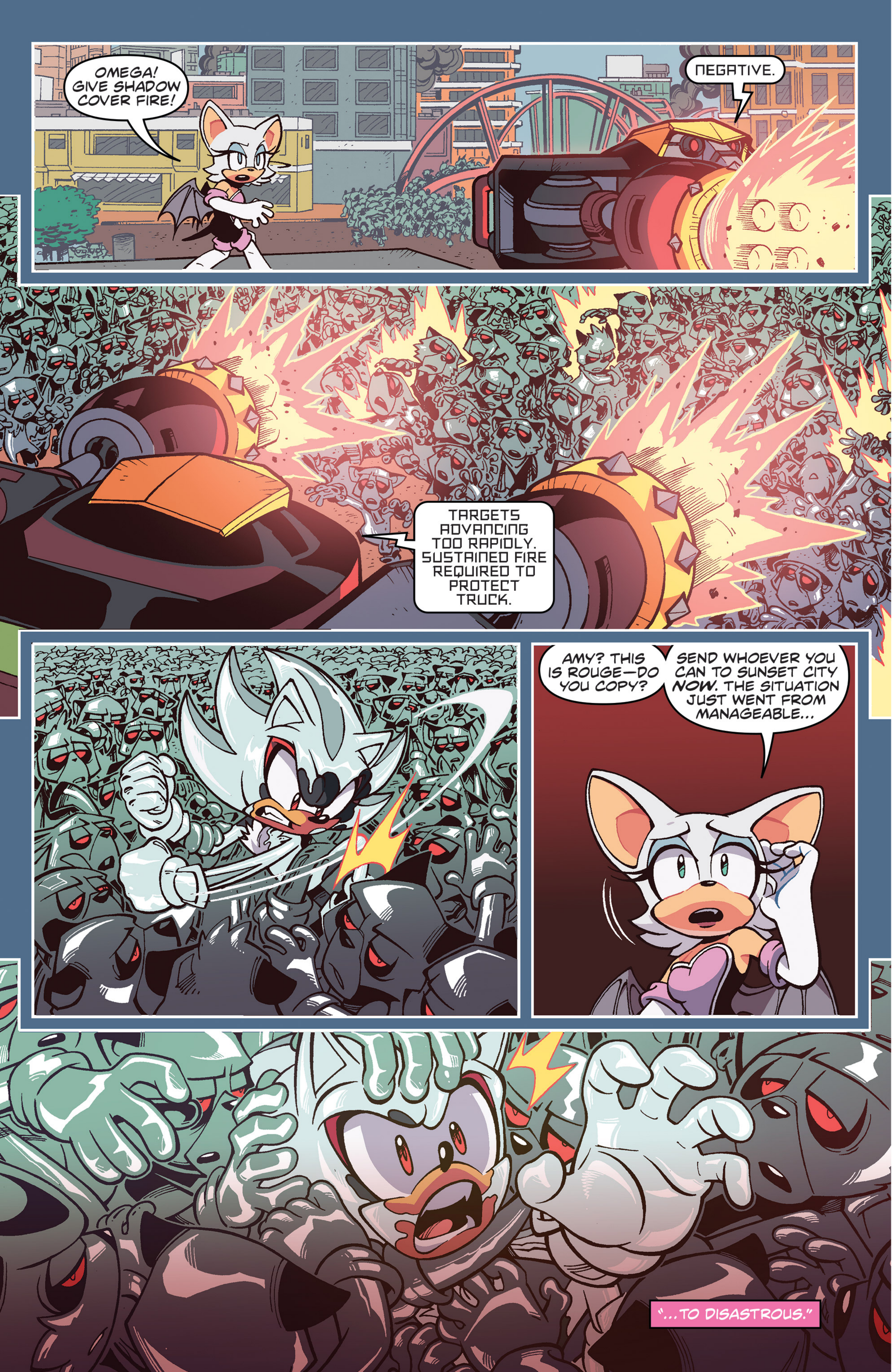
THAT'S... IMPOSSIBLE...


BUBBA-BUBBA-BUBBA-BUBBA-
SHADOW! RUN!
WE'LL HOLD THINGS HERE!

I DON'T RUN!

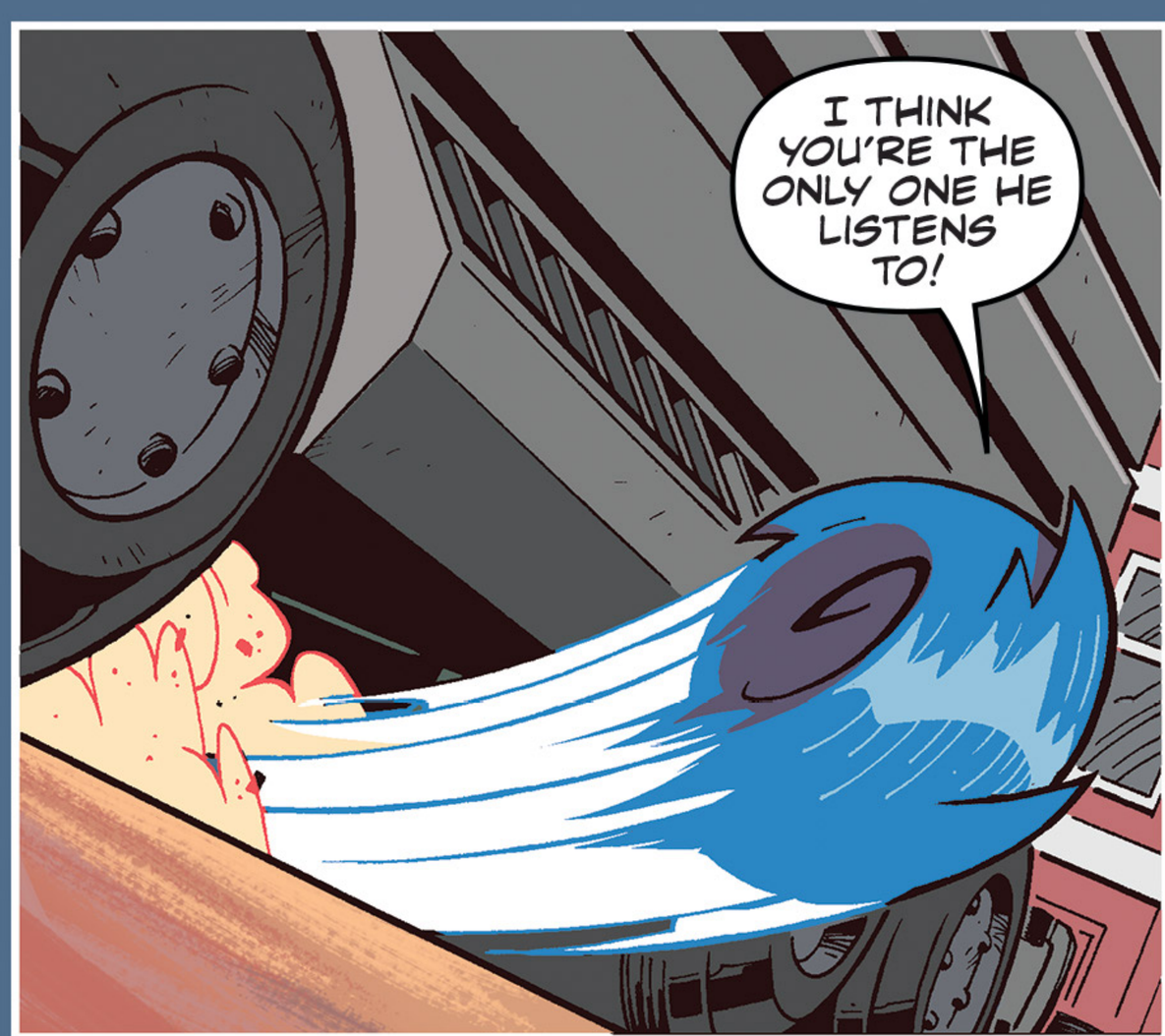

POW

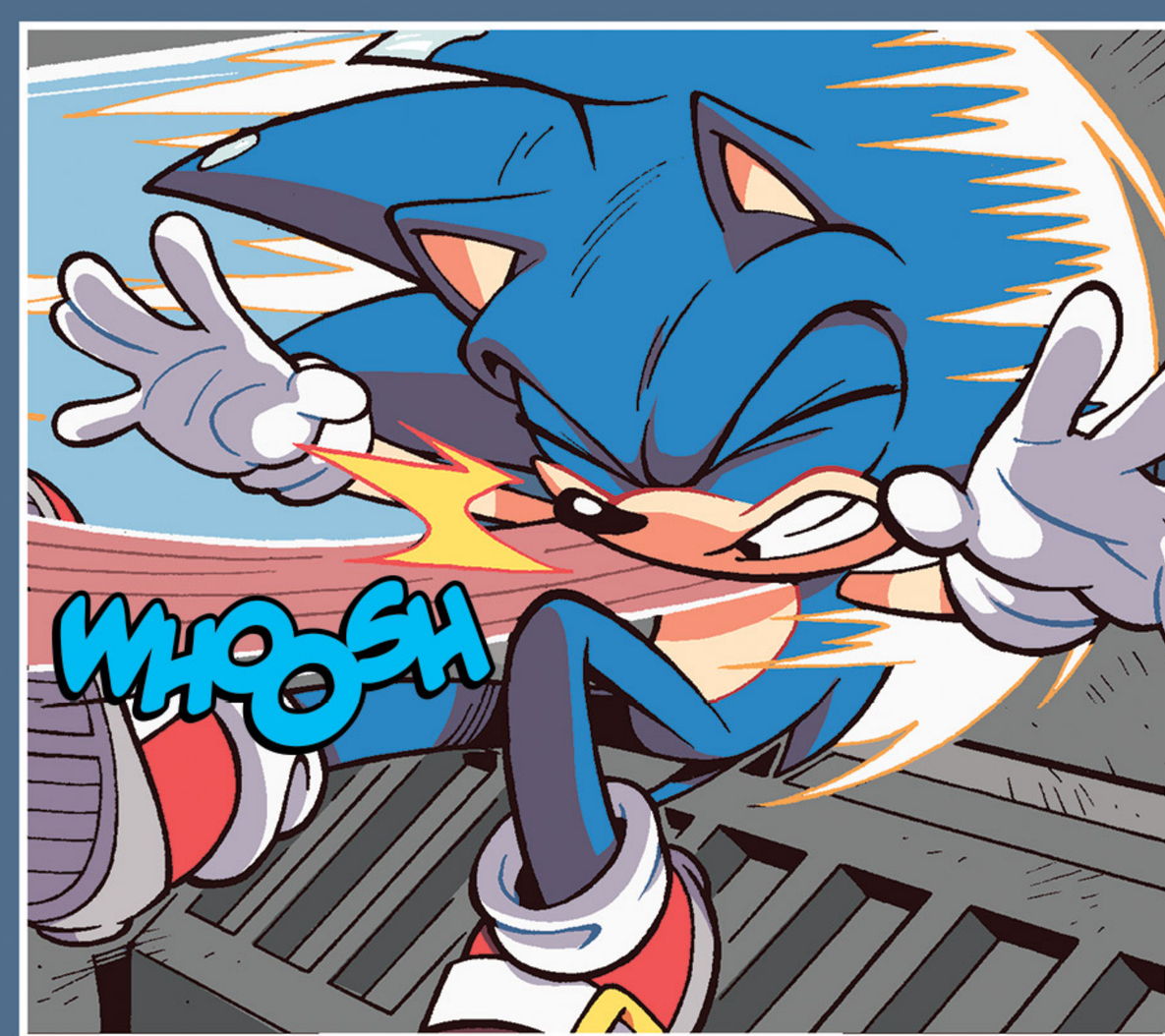
BUBBA-BA-BUBBA-BA-BA
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!


OMEGA! GIVE SHADOW COVER FIRE!
NEGATIVE.
TARGETS ADVANCING TOO RAPIDLY. SUSTAINED FIRE REQUIRED TO PROTECT TRUCK.
AMY? THIS IS ROUGE—DO YOU COPY?
SEND WHOEVER YOU CAN TO SUNSET CITY NOW. THE SITUATION JUST WENT FROM MANAGEABLE...
"...TO DISASTROUS."

CHECK YOUR FIRE, OMEGA!

SONIC! WE NEED YOU OVER THERE TO HANDLE SHADOW!
PFFT, "HANDLE"?


I THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HE LISTENS TO!

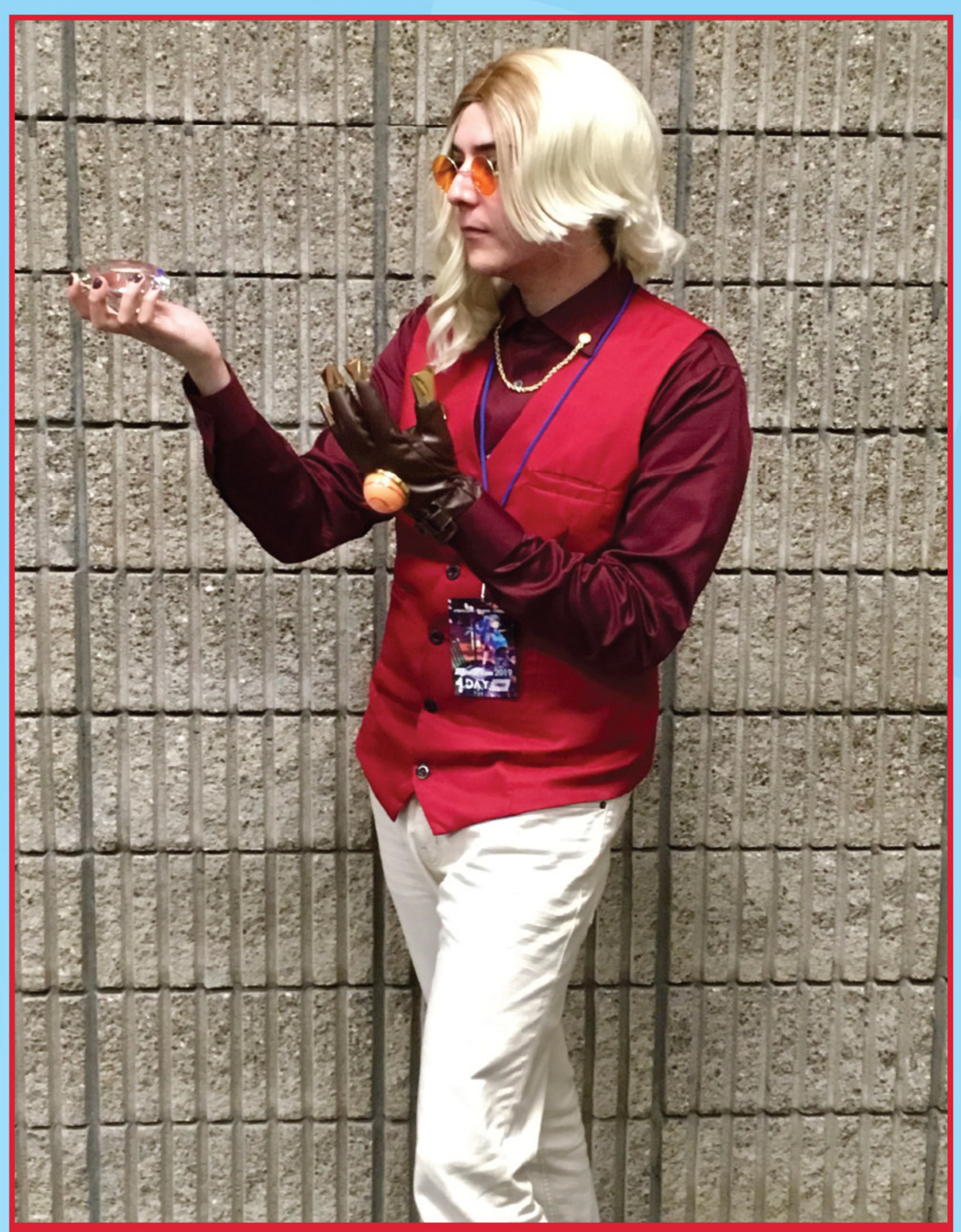

WHOOSH

GRK I GET IT NOW. "HANDLE."
IS IT MY TURN TO SAY "I TOLD YOU SO"?

NEXT TIME:
SONIC & OMEGA VS. ZOMBOT SHADOW!

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello Squad! Long-time no see, huh?! Glad to be back with this awesome issue, "Crisis City, Part 1", by our fantastic team of Ian Flynn, Jack Lawrence, Shawn Lee, and newcomer Bracardi Curry! As a special treat (and to catch up on our backlog), we're doing 3 pages of letters this month! So, check out some amazing art, cosplay, and letters from your fellow squaddies and don't forget to pick up Tangle & Whisper #1, also on sale this month! Now let's get to it!



Cosplay by Eli D.

Greetings IDW Sonic Team,

I've been a huge fan of Sonic in comics for years and I absolutely love the direction this series is going in; I can't wait to see what's in store for Team Sonic for the rest of year 2 and beyond! One of the things I love is all the new characters we've seen, such as Tangle, Whisper, and my favorite, Dr. Starline. After seeing some cosplay in prior issues, I just had to try doing one myself for a con; it was a blast! Better yet, I was able to meet (in cosplay!) some of the people involved with the series such as Adam Bryce Thomas, Tracy Yardley(!) and Gigi Dutreix. They are all amazing people, and you can see the love and care that they, as well as the rest of the staff, put into every single issue of Sonic. Keep up the great work you guys!

P.S. IDW has done cover galleries and art books before, so please consider doing one for Sonic; the covers are amazing!

-Eli D.

Hi Eli,

It's amazing to see your Starline cosplay! That's excellent! We at IDW are always blown away by all the cool cosplay people do and even moreso when it's characters who originated in these comics! I don't think I've ever seen a more sinister platypus, so nicely done! As per a cover gallery style art book, a number of people have asked for that and if it continues to prove popular, it might be worth doing. If folks other than Eli would like to see that, let us know here in the letters column and on the Facebook group!

Art by Aaron Moss

What's up everyone, I've been a huge Sonic fan since I was little. My very first Sonic game I ever played was Sonic Heroes and I loved it as a kid especially Seaside Hill. It was during elementary school that I really started to love Sonic after Sonic Generations. It was sort of an obsession but a very awesome one! Sonic is just so cool. Just that he's the type of person to never give up on situations, have good friends and relationships around him. Also love all the puns he does and how he always curves Amy. I'm so grateful for Sonic and for the huge memories he brings. I love that IDW rebooted the comics because I was sad the other comic series was over and I've enjoyed all the comics I've read. So glad to be a part of the Sonic community and fan base. Keep running Sonic and keep following that rainbow my dude!

Gabe "GP" Pizarro

Hi Gabe,

Glad to hear you're such a fan and that you're digging the comic so much! Your letter hits on some really important points about Sonic—he does never give up (even when infected with the Metal Virus) and he does have some great friends! It's always wonderful to hear that people find their place in the Sonic community—even like this letters page—and find themselves never giving up and making friends!

Hi there!!

Big fans! We've been playing Sonic games since we were very young, and the series has always been a tremendous part of our lives. When I first discovered the IDW comics, I was amazed by how much I fell in love. I caught up with all of them within one night. Thanks for continuing Sonic's story in such an awesome and true way. It's definitely a part of what helped to spark my love for Sonic again lately. Just wanted to share our cosplays that we did recently of our versions of Sonic and Tails. Thanks for being an incredible team. Really looking forward to all future issues and the continuation of the story.

-Carly (Sonic) and Natalie (Tails)

Hi Carly and Natalie,

Your cosplays are awesome! You make a great Sonic and Tails! We've said it before, but it's always nice to see how Sonic brings people together and creates friendships that last for years! Speaking of years, it's taken us over a year to make all those comics and you read them all in one night?! Well, I've heard of going fast, but that takes the cake. Guess we'll just have to keep making more until there're too many to read in one night, huh

Cosplay by Carly (left) and Natalie (right)

Hello amazing Sonic writers!

I've been reading the new comics, and want to say that I think they're a smashing success!
Being a Sonic fan of about two years now, I was hyped to learn about these comics. I'm a fan of both the games and comics, and I certainly think that both are extremely good.
Becoming a teenager never swayed my love for Sonic!
As most people do, I definitely have a favorite character. Shadow's always going to be my favorite, as well as Rouge for a long time into the future!
I hope to maybe someday be an artist for these comics, as I make a lot of Sonic art. I've included one of my pieces.
That's about it for me!
Good luck, and thank you so much for the speedy blue boy that makes my days a little brighter!

Hello Raegan,

Thanks for the kind words about the comic! I hope this issue with Shadow and Rouge made you extra happy! Well... I guess the ending's not great if Shadow's your favorite, huh? Pretty concerning to have him fall victim to the Metal Virus... But! Maybe it ends up being inspiration for some more awesome art like what you sent us! And, hey, guess we'll all find out more about what happens to Shadow and Rouge next issue!

Art by Raegan Browning

Art by Seth Glinsky

Art by Joshua P

Hello to the Sonic Creative Team!!
Our names are Mia, Nala, and Ayahna. We are the 3 Little Chaos! We're sisters that can't get enough of Sonic and the Team and we'd love to ask you a "few" (a.k.a a lot of) questions!

1) Is the plant, in issue #7, Cosmos's seed from the Sonic X TV show? OR does it have something to do with the cure to the metal virus?
2) How old is Tangle and Whisper?
3) Will the new comic series of Tangle & Whisper tell more about Whispers's past?
4) Will Knuckles be coming back to the Restoration to help the fight against the metal virus?
5) Is Dr. Starline actually an "Admirer" of Dr. Eggman's work? OR is Dr. Starline using Eggman to fulfill his own evil agenda?
6) Will we see Rough & Tumble again? ('Cuz we wanna see their butts get kicked by Knuckles!)
7) Will we see more of Silver and Whisper working together?!
8) Will Blaze be returning?

Thank You!
Best Regards,
3 Little Chaos

Hi Mia, Nala, and Ayahna,

You weren't kidding! That is a lot of questions. Well... Let's see if we can't answer 'em all, huh? And all you other folks don't go sending us long emails with lists of questions, it's just because we haven't had a letters column in a couple of months and, well, there're three little chaos!

1. There is no plant in issue #7. But, the plant Silver saw in issue #8 sure seems like it has to do with the Metal Virus...
2 & 3. You're just going to have to read the Tangle & Whisper mini-series and grab the digital trading cards to find out!
4. Knuckles is back on Angel Island, but we might see him again soon...
5. Dr. Starline genuinely admires Dr. Eggman's work... but that doesn't mean he doesn't have his own plans.
6. They already got their butts kicked by Knuckles (and Sonic and Amy and Tails)! But if they show up again, considering they're infected with the Metal Virus, it'll be bad news!
7. Mmmmmaybe! But the Restoration's spread pretty thin trying to save people...
8. She's back home in her own dimension, but even if she came back, we're not sure she'd fair much better against the Metal Virus. Maybe it's better that she stays home until it's all sorted out.

Okay! Feeling more caught up on these letters (looks at the hundreds still in the inbox and sweats)! Anyway, that's it for this time! Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! We'll see you next issue when we return to Crisis City! Part Two!

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"I shall take the heart," returned the Tin Woodman; "for brains do not make one happy, and happiness is the best thing in the world."

—*L. Frank Baum,*
THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

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ART BY
DREW ZUCKER

COLORS BY
VITTORIO ASTONE

LETTERS BY
DERON BENNETT

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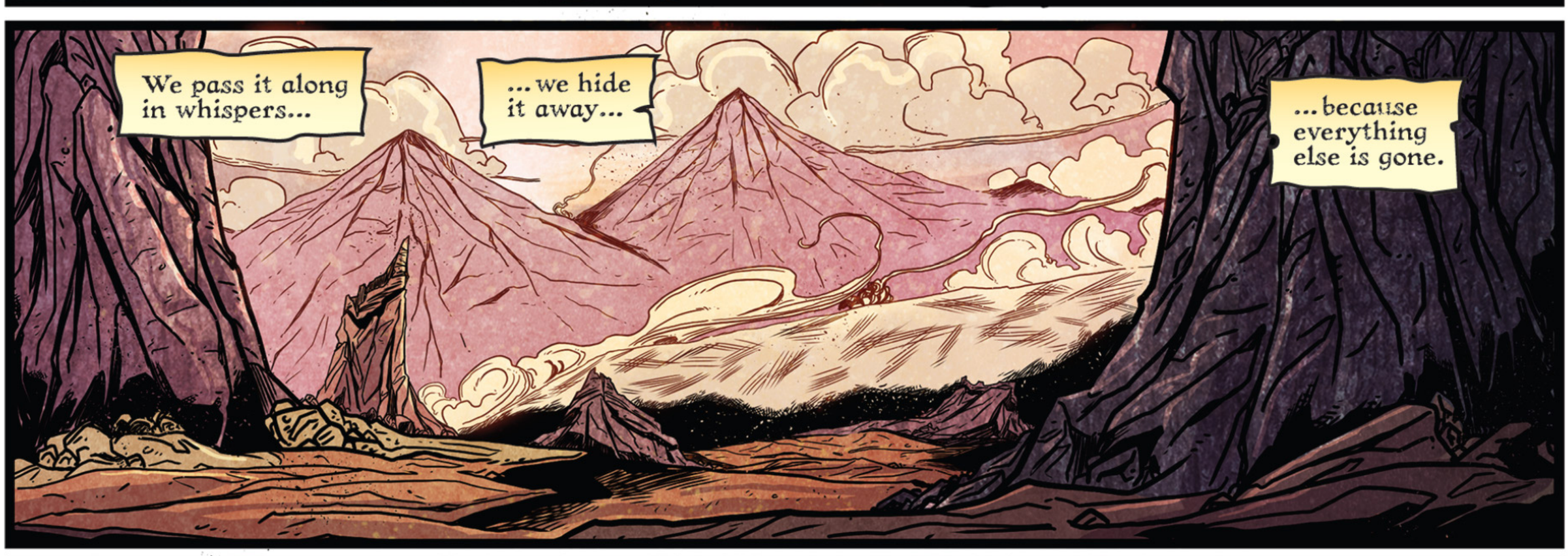

Once there was a boy who lived in a kingdom in a faraway land.

He was training to be a *knight*.

One night, invaders stormed the gates...

...and stole the kingdom's princess.

They took her to the tallest tower in the tallest castle atop the tallest mountain.

The boy was not ready for the dangers that lay ahead...

...but if *he* did not go after the princess...

...if he did not become the *knight* he was destined to be...

...she would be lost forever.

On his quest, the knight battled hordes of beasts and enemies. He faced countless horrors.
When he arrived at the mountain, he looked up at its steep face...
...and he climbed.
He arrived atop the tallest tower in the tallest castle...
...and he faced the evil sorcerer who had taken the princess.
The battle was long, and the knight was bruised and bloodied. When he believed he could fight no more...
...he vanquished his foe.

The knight returned home, and the townsfolk called him a hero.

The princess asked him to rule the kingdom by her side.

CHIP

The knight did not see himself a hero. Or a prince.

He saw only a boy who had succeeded in his quest.

LITTLE SLAVE...

...GET BACK TO WORK.

WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WA
This is Arcana.
The only place any of us has ever known.
Our hearts are taken before we know what they're for...
...and they're replaced with *clocks*.
We spend our time feeding the fires that burn under Arcana for reasons we have never been told...
...until our clocks stop.

They've forbidden us to have names...
...forbidden us to care for one another...
...forbidden us to feel love.
But I care for others...
...I feel love...
...I have a name.

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